

House Bill 1052

By: Representatives Tarvin of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ridley of the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Carpenter of the 4<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the board of commissioners of Whitfield County, approved  
2 February 21, 1964 (Ga. L. 1964, p. 2175), as amended, so as to provide for the election of  
3 certain members of the board of commissioners by district; to provide for related matters; to  
4 provide for a referendum; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act creating the board of commissioners of Whitfield County, approved February 21,  
9 1964 (Ga. L. 1964, p. 2175), as amended, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 2  
10 as follows:

11 "(a)(1) The board of commissioners of Whitfield County shall consist of five members.  
12 The chairperson shall be elected by the voters of Whitfield County at large and may live  
13 anywhere within Whitfield County.  
14 (2) The commissioners representing Commissioner Districts 2 and 4 in office on the  
15 effective date of this subsection shall serve out the terms to which they were elected.  
16 The commissioners representing Commissioner Districts 1 and 3 elected in the 2018  
17 November general election shall serve out the terms to which they were elected.  
18 Thereafter, successors to such commissioners shall be elected by the voters of their  
19 respective districts. Such commissioners shall reside within the commissioner district  
20 which such commissioner represents."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 The election superintendent of Whitfield County shall call and conduct an election on the  
23 date of the 2018 November general election as provided in this section for the purpose of  
24 submitting this Act to the electors of Whitfield County for approval or rejection. The  
25 election superintendent shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general

26 law. The superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once  
 27 a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of  
 28 Whitfield County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

29 "( ) YES Shall the Act be approved which changes the governing authority of  
 30 ( ) NO Whitfield County from a five-member board of commissioners elected at  
 31 large to a five-member board of commissioners with a chairperson elected  
 32 at large by the voters of the entire county and four commissioners elected  
 33 by the voters of their respective commissioner districts?"

34 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes." Those persons desiring  
 35 to vote against the approval of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes  
 36 cast are for approval of the Act, then Section 1 of this Act shall become effective on  
 37 January 1, 2019; otherwise, this Act shall be automatically repealed on the first day of  
 38 January following that election date. The expense of such election shall be borne by  
 39 Whitfield County. It shall be the duty of the election superintendent to certify the results  
 40 thereof to the Secretary of State.

41 **SECTION 3.**

42 Except as otherwise provided in Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon  
 43 its approval by the Governor or its becoming law without such approval.

44 **SECTION 4.**

45 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.