

House Bill 1052

By: Representatives Tarvin of the 2nd, Ridley of the 6th, and Carpenter of the 4th

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.