

House Bill 860 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Williams of the 145th and Rhodes of the 120th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of Putnam County desire the Putnam County Board of Commissioners to levy an ad valorem tax for the purpose of retirement of debt incurred by the Putnam County Hospital Authority; to provide for legislative purposes and findings; to provide for procedures and requirements relating thereto; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

(a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of Putnam County desire the Putnam County Board of Commissioners to levy an ad valorem tax for the purpose of retirement of debt incurred by the Putnam County Hospital Authority in operating Putnam General Hospital.

(b) It is found, determined, and declared that the holding of the nonbinding advisory referendum provided for in this Act is:

(1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of Putnam County;

(2) A public purpose; and

(3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

SECTION 2.

The election superintendent of Putnam County shall call and conduct a nonbinding advisory referendum election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting a question to the electors of Putnam County to determine whether a majority of said electors desire the Putnam County Board of Commissioners to levy an ad valorem tax for the purpose of retirement of debt incurred by the Putnam County Hospital Authority in operating Putnam General Hospital. The nonbinding advisory referendum election shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2020, and the election superintendent shall issue the call and conduct such election as provided by general law. The election

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

29 "NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM

30 () YES Do you support the county commissioners raising property taxes one mill

31 () NO for a period of six years or an amount of \$7,800,000.00, whichever occurs

32 first, for the retirement of debt incurred by Putnam General Hospital?"

33 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and all persons

34 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election

35 shall be borne by Putnam County. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify the

36 result thereof to the Secretary of State.

37 **SECTION 3.**

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