

House Bill 1432

By: Representatives Wade of the 9th and Ralston of the 7th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a board of elections and registration for Dawson County, approved
2 April 23, 1998 (Ga. L. 1998, p. 4680), as amended, so as to provide for the appointment of
3 the fifth member of the board; to conform the appointment process for the other members of
4 the board with state law; to provide for staggered terms of the board; to revise the duties of
5 the election supervisor; to provide for the appointment and duties of a chairperson and
6 secretary of the board; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating a board of elections and registration for Dawson County, approved April 23,
11 1998 (Ga. L. 1998, p. 4680), as amended, is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

12 "SECTION 2.

13 (a) The board shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and
14 a resident of the county. The members shall be appointed as provided in this section to

15 allow for staggered terms. The terms of all members serving on the effective date of this
16 section will end on December 31, 2022.

17 (b)(1)(A) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Dawson
18 County from a list of nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive
19 committee of the political party whose candidate for president at the last election
20 preceding such appointment received the largest number of votes in the county.

21 (B) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Dawson County
22 from a list of nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee
23 of the political party whose candidate for president at the election described in
24 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph received the next largest number of votes in the
25 county.

26 (2) Each of the nominations provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall have
27 been ratified by a majority of the members of each of such respective executive
28 committee voting at a regularly scheduled meeting of such executive committees or a
29 meeting duly called and held for such purpose. In the event such appointments are not
30 ratified by a majority of the members of such executive committees at least 60 days
31 preceding the date on which such members are to take office, then the members of the
32 respective executive committees may appoint such members by a two-thirds' majority of
33 the membership of such executive committees at a regularly scheduled meeting or at a
34 meeting duly called and held for such purpose. In the event the members of said
35 executive committees fail to appoint such members at least 30 days preceding the date
36 on which such members are to take office, such members shall be appointed by the
37 commissioners.

38 (3)(A) The governing authority of Dawson County shall designate one of the initial
39 members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this subsection
40 and one of the initial members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1)

41 of this subsection to serve for terms ending on December 31, 2023, and until their
42 successors are appointed and qualified.

43 (B) The governing authority of Dawson County shall designate one of the initial
44 members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this subsection
45 and one of the initial members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1)
46 of this subsection to serve for terms ending on December 31, 2025, and until their
47 successors are appointed and qualified.

48 (C) Successors to such members shall be appointed to serve terms of four years and
49 until their respective successors are appointed and qualified.

50 (c) The fifth member of the board shall be appointed by the governing authority of
51 Dawson County from a list of nominations provided by the other members of the board.
52 The initial member appointed pursuant to this subsection shall take office on
53 January 1, 2023, for a term to end on December 31, 2026, and until his or her successor is
54 appointed and qualified. Successors to such member shall be appointed to serve terms of
55 four years and until their respective successors are appointed and qualified."

56 **SECTION 2.**

57 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 12 as follows:

58 "(a) The board shall be authorized and empowered to organize itself; may elect from
59 among its membership a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary; and shall determine
60 its procedural rules and regulations, adopt bylaws, specify the functions and duties of its
61 employees, and otherwise take such actions as are appropriate to the management of its
62 affairs; provided, however, that no such action shall conflict with general law."

63 **SECTION 3.**

64 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 14 as follows:

65 "SECTION 14.

66 (a) The chairperson of the board shall be the chief executive officer of the board and shall
67 oversee the administration of the affairs of the board pursuant to law and the duly adopted
68 resolutions of the board.

69 (b) Compensation for the members of the board shall be fixed by the governing authority
70 of Dawson County.

71 (c) All amounts payable under this section shall be paid from the funds of Dawson
72 County."

73 **SECTION 4.**

74 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 16 as follows:

75 "SECTION 16.

76 The election supervisor, as director of the election and registration office, shall be
77 responsible for the selection, appointment, and training of poll workers in elections."

78 **SECTION 5.**

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