

House Bill 1601 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Boggs of the 145th, Smith of the 129th, Post 2, and Mosley of the 129th,
Post 1

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide that future elections for the office of chief magistrate and the office of judge of
2 the probate court of Ware County shall be nonpartisan elections; to provide for submission
3 of this Act under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide
4 for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 All elections for the office of chief magistrate and the judge of the probate court of Ware
9 County conducted on and after the effective date of this Act shall be nonpartisan elections
10 as provided for in Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A. Such nonpartisan elections shall
11 be held in conjunction with the nonpartisan general election immediately preceding
12 expiration of the term of office and conducted as provided in Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the
13 O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Nothing in this Act shall affect the term of office of the chief magistrate or the term of office
16 of the judge of the probate court of Ware County in office on the effective date of this Act.
17 The sitting chief magistrate and the sitting probate judge shall serve out the term of office for
18 which each was elected and shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself as provided in this
19 Act.

20 **SECTION 3.**

21 The governing authority of Ware County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act to be
22 submitted for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
23 amended, no later than 30 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor
24 or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

1 **SECTION 4.**

2 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
3 without such approval.

4 **SECTION 5.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.