

Senate Bill 15

By: Senators Setzler of the 37th, Dixon of the 45th, Albers of the 56th, Still of the 48th and Kirkpatrick of the 32nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elections and primaries generally, so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by
3 local legislation for nonpartisan elections for county governing authorities; to provide for
4 related matters; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and
8 primaries generally, is amended in Code Section 21-2-139, relating to nonpartisan elections
9 authorized and conduct, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

10 "(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary, the General
11 Assembly may provide by local Act for the election in nonpartisan elections of candidates
12 to fill county judicial offices, offices of local boards of education, offices of county
13 governing authorities, and offices of consolidated governments which are filled by the vote
14 of the electors of said county or political subdivision. Except as otherwise provided in this
15 Code section, the procedures to be employed in such nonpartisan elections shall conform
16 as nearly as practicable to the procedures governing nonpartisan elections as provided in

17 this chapter. Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, the election procedures
18 established by any existing local law which provides for the nonpartisan election of
19 candidates to fill county offices shall conform to the general procedures governing
20 nonpartisan elections as provided in this chapter, and such nonpartisan elections shall be
21 conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of this chapter, notwithstanding the
22 provisions of any existing local law. For those offices for which the General Assembly,
23 pursuant to this Code section, provided by local Act for election in nonpartisan primaries and
24 elections, such offices shall no longer require nonpartisan primaries. Such officers shall be
25 elected in nonpartisan elections held and conducted in conjunction with the general primary
26 in even-numbered years in accordance with this chapter without a prior nonpartisan primary.
27 This Code section shall apply to all nonpartisan elections for members of consolidated
28 governments. All nonpartisan elections for members of consolidated governments shall be
29 governed by the provisions of this Code section and shall be considered county elections and
30 not municipal elections for the purposes of this Code section. Nonpartisan elections for
31 municipal offices shall be conducted on the dates provided in the municipal charter."

32

SECTION 2.

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