

House Bill 604

By: Representatives Jasperse of the 11<sup>th</sup>, Cox of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Tarvin of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Powell of the 33<sup>rd</sup>,  
and Ridley of the 22<sup>nd</sup>

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 authorize local election superintendents to conduct  
3 manual recounts of ballots following the computation, canvassing, and tabulation of returns  
4 in an election; to address discrepancies raised by such recounts; to provide for the  
5 termination of such recounts if they conflict with other duties of the superintendent; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and  
10 primaries generally, is amended in Code Section 21-2-493, relating to computation,  
11 canvassing, and tabulation of returns, investigation of discrepancies in vote counts, recount  
12 procedure, posting of digital images of scanned paper ballots, certification of returns, and  
13 change in returns, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

14 "(h.1)(1) Upon completing all tasks required by subsections (a) through (h) of this Code  
15 section, the superintendent may conduct a manual recount of all ballots cast within a  
16 county or municipality. Such manual recount shall occur at the same location as the

17 computation and canvassing provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section and shall  
18 be open to the public. For the purpose of such a manual recount, the superintendent may  
19 organize his or her assistants into sections, each of whom may simultaneously proceed  
20 with the manual recount provided for by this subsection.

21 (2) The results of such manual recount shall be unofficial, but if the results of such a  
22 manual recount indicate a discrepancy with the official results of the computation,  
23 canvassing, and tabulation provided for in this Code section, any such discrepancy shall  
24 be addressed as provided for in subsections (b) through (h) of this Code section.

25 (3) The manual recount provided for in this subsection shall in no way delay or inhibit  
26 the superintendent from complying with any requirements of this chapter. If an ongoing  
27 manual recount will prevent a superintendent from meeting any of the requirements of  
28 any provision of this chapter, such recount shall be immediately terminated."

29 **SECTION 2.**

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