

House Bill 1093

By: Representatives Burchett of the 176th and Corbett of the 174th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the
2 electors of Ware County support a perimeter highway bypass around Waycross; to provide
3 for legislative purposes and findings; to provide for a referendum; to provide for mandatory
4 execution of election and judicial remedies regarding failure to comply; to provide for related
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the
9 purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of Ware County support a perimeter highway
10 bypass around Waycross.

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

- 13 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of Ware County;
14 (2) A public purpose; and
15 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

SECTION 2.

The election superintendent of Ware County shall call and conduct a nonbinding advisory referendum election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this question to the electors of Ware County to determine whether a majority of said electors support a perimeter highway bypass around Waycross. The nonbinding advisory referendum election shall be held on the date of the 2026 general primary, and the election superintendent shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the manner required by law. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM

() YES Do you support a perimeter highway bypass around Waycross?

() NO"

All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election shall be borne by Ware County. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State. The provisions of this section shall be mandatory upon the election superintendent and are not intended as directory. If the election superintendent fails or refuses to comply with this section, any elector of Ware County may apply for a writ of mandamus to compel the election superintendent to perform his or her duties under this section. If the court finds that the election superintendent has not complied with this section, the court shall fashion appropriate relief requiring the election superintendent to call and conduct such election on the date required by this section or on the next date authorized for special elections provided for in Code Section 21-2-540 of the O.C.G.A.

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SECTION 3.

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