

House Bill 1545 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Rhodes of the 124th and Washburn of the 144th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the board of commissioners for Putnam County, approved
2 September 8, 1879 (Ga. L. 1878-79, p. 334), as amended, particularly by an Act approved
3 February 15, 2012 (Ga. L. 2012, p. 3596) and an Act approved May 6, 2015 (Ga. L. 2015,
4 p. 3805), so as to provide for current board of commissioner members to continue their terms
5 of office; to require board members to live in their districts; to provide for filling vacancies;
6 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating the board of commissioners for Putnam County, approved September 8,
10 1879 (Ga. L. 1878-79, p. 334), as amended, particularly by an Act approved February 15,
11 2012 (Ga. L. 2012, p. 3596) and an Act approved May 6, 2015 (Ga. L. 2015, p. 3805), is
12 amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Section 3 as follows:

13 "(a) The members of the board holding office on the effective date of this section and any
14 persons selected to fill vacancies in such offices shall serve out the terms of office to which
15 they were elected and until their successors are elected and qualified as previously
16 established by law with successive terms to follow thereafter.

H. B. 1545

17 (b) In the event any member elected from a district ceases to be a resident of his or her
18 respective district during his or her term of office, a vacancy shall be created.
19 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when a vacancy occurs for any
20 reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the remaining members of the board
21 shall appoint a successor who shall reside in the district where the vacancy occurred and
22 be a nominee and a member of the local political party of the prior officeholder to serve the
23 remaining unexpired term if the unexpired term is less than 12 months. If the members of
24 the board are unable to select a successor, the chief judge of the Superior Court of Putnam
25 County shall have the power to appoint a successor who shall reside in the district where
26 the vacancy occurred and be a nominee and a member of the local political party of the
27 prior officeholder to serve the remaining unexpired term if the unexpired term is less than
28 12 months. If the unexpired term is 12 months or greater, such appointee shall serve until
29 a successor is elected and qualified by a special election in accordance with the provisions
30 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code,' as now or hereafter
31 amended."

32 **SECTION 2.**

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