

House Bill 1601 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Corbett of the 174th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act revising, superseding, and consolidating the laws creating and governing
2 the Board of Commissioners of Echols County, approved February 3, 1953 (Ga. L. 1953,
3 Jan.-Feb. Sess., p. 2054), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 27, 2012 (Ga.
4 L. 2012, p. 4575), so as to increase the size of the board of commissioners; to provide for
5 residency requirements; to provide for the description of the commissioner districts and
6 posts; to define certain terms and provide for certain inclusions; to provide for election of
7 members; to provide for initial terms; to provide for continuation in office of current
8 members; to provide for related matters; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws;
9 and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 An Act revising, superseding, and consolidating the laws creating and governing the Board
13 of Commissioners of Echols County, approved February 3, 1953 (Ga. L. 1953, Jan.-Feb.
14 Sess., p. 2054), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 27, 2012 (Ga. L. 2012,
15 p. 4575), is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

H. B. 1601

"SECTION 2.

(a) There shall be a Board of Commissioners of Echols County, to consist of five persons to be elected as provided for in this Act. In order to be elected as a member of the board from a commissioner district, a person must have resided in that district for at least 12 months prior to election thereto and must receive a majority of the votes cast for such office in that district. At the time of qualifying for election as a member of the board from a district, each candidate for such office shall specify the district for which that person is a candidate. A person elected as a member of the board from a district must continue to reside in that district during the person's term of office or such office shall thereupon become vacant. Elections of members of the board shall be held in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code.'

(b) For the purpose of electing members of the board of commissioners, Echols County shall be divided into three commissioner districts. Commissioner Districts 1 and 2 shall each have two posts. Commissioner Districts 1, 2, and 3 shall be and correspond to those three numbered districts described in Appendix A attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as 'User: Echols Plan Name: EcholsCC-2022 Plan Type: Local'.

(c)(1) For the purposes of such plan:

(A) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia; and

(B) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

43 (2) Any part of Echols County which is not included in any district described in
44 subsection (b) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part
45 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census
46 of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

47 (3) Any part of Echols County which is described in subsection (b) of this section as
48 being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such
49 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall
50 instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least
51 population according to the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of
52 Georgia.

53 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, members of the board of
54 commissioners shall serve four-year terms of office and until their successors are elected
55 and qualified.

56 (d)(1) The initial member of the board from District 1 Post 1 as newly described under
57 this section shall be elected at the general election held in November, 2024. The
58 commissioner elected at such election shall serve a four-year term of office.

59 (2) The initial member of the board elected from District 1 Post 2 as newly described
60 under this section shall be elected at the general election held in November, 2024, and the
61 commissioner elected at such election shall serve an initial term of office of two years.
62 The successor to such commissioner shall be elected at the general election held in
63 November, 2026, and such successor and all subsequent successors shall serve a
64 four-year term of office.

65 (3) The initial member of the board elected from District 2 Post 1 as newly described
66 under this section shall be elected at the general election held in November, 2024. The
67 commissioner elected at such election shall serve a four-year term of office.

68 (4) The initial member of the board from District 2 Post 2 as newly described under this
69 section shall be Kenneth Petty, and on and after the effective date of this section such

70 commissioner shall be deemed to be serving from and representing District 2 Post 2 as
71 described under this section. The successor to such commissioner shall be elected at the
72 general election held in November, 2026.

73 (5) The initial member of the board from District 3 as newly described under this section
74 shall be elected at the general election held in November, 2024. The commissioner
75 elected at such election shall serve a four-year term of office.

76 **SECTION 2.**

77 Those members of the Board of Commissioners of Echols County who are serving as such
78 on the effective date of this Act and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office
79 shall continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective terms
80 of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors.

81 **SECTION 3.**

82 The provisions of this Act necessary to conduct elections for the members of the Board of
83 Commissioners of Echols County in 2024 shall become effective on January 1, 2024. The
84 remaining provisions of this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

85 **SECTION 4.**

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

APPENDIX A

87

88 User: Echols

89 Plan Name: EcholsCC-2022

90 Plan Type: Local

91 District 001

92 County Echols GA

93 VTD STATENVILLE

94 Block 880200:

95 1043 1044 1045 1046 1047 1072 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

96 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2025 2026 2027

97 2028 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041

98 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053

99 2054 2055 2056

100 District 002

101 County Echols GA

102 VTD STATENVILLE

103 Block 880100:

104 1010 1011 1012 1013 1023 1041 1042 1043 1044 1046 1047 1048

105 1049 1050 1051 1052 1053 1054 1055 1056 1057 1101 1103 1106

106 1109 1121 1123 1126 1127 1128 1129 1130 1131 1132 1133 1134

107 1135 1136 1137 1138 1139 1140 1141 1142 1143 1144 1145 1146

108 1147 1148 1149 1150 1151 1152 1153 1154 1155 1156 1157 1158

109 1159 1160 1277 1281

110 Block 880200:

111 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011

112 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023
113 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035
114 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1041 1042 1048 1049 1050 1051 1052
115 1053 1054 1055 1056 1057 1058 1059 1060 1061 1062 1063 1064
116 1065 1066 1067 1068 1069 1070 1071 1073 2000 2001 2002 2018
117 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2029 2030

118 District 003

119 County Echols GA

120 VTD STATENVILLE

121 Block 880100:

122 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1014 1015
123 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028
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129 1108 1110 1111 1112 1113 1114 1115 1116 1117 1118 1119 1120
130 1122 1124 1125 1161 1162 1163 1164 1165 1166 1167 1168 1169
131 1170 1171 1172 1173 1174 1175 1176 1177 1178 1179 1180 1181
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134 1206 1207 1208 1209 1210 1211 1212 1213 1214 1215 1216 1217
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137 1242 1243 1244 1245 1246 1247 1248 1249 1250 1251 1252 1253

138 1254 1255 1256 1257 1258 1259 1260 1261 1262 1263 1264 1265
139 1266 1267 1268 1269 1270 1271 1272 1273 1274 1275 1276 1278
140 1279 1280