

House Bill 615

By: Representatives Alexander of the 66th, Bruce of the 61st, and Jones of the 62nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a board of elections and registration for Douglas County, approved
2 May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 3880), so as to provide for composition of the board and the
3 selection and appointment of members; to provide for related matters; to provide for
4 submission for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
5 amended; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act creating a board of elections and registration for Douglas County, approved May 13,
9 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 3880), is amended by revising Section 3 as follows:

10 "SECTION 3.

11 (a) The board shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and
12 resident of the county and who shall be appointed as provided in this section.

13 (b) The board shall be reconstituted effective January 1, 2014, as provided for in
14 subsections (c) and (d) of this section; until such date, those members of the board serving
15 on January 1, 2013, shall continue to serve. The appointments for members who shall take
16 office on January 1, 2014, shall occur in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

17 (c) Two members of the board shall be appointed by the chairperson of the county executive
18 committee of the political party which received the highest number of votes within the state
19 for members of the General Assembly at the last general election immediately preceding the
20 appointment of such members. Two members of the board shall be appointed by the
21 chairperson of the county executive committee of the political party which received the next
22 highest number of votes within the state for members of the General Assembly in the general
23 election immediately preceding the appointment of such members. In the event that a
24 political party entitled to appoint a member of the board does not have a county executive
25 committee, such appointment shall be made by the state executive committee of such

26 political party. One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Douglas
27 County.

28 (d) One of the initial members appointed by the chairpersons of the executive committees
29 of the political parties shall serve for a term of two years and the other initial member
30 appointed by such chairpersons shall serve for a term of four years. The initial member
31 appointed by the governing authority of Douglas County shall serve for a term of four years.
32 Thereafter, all members of the board shall be appointed for terms of four years and until their
33 successors are appointed and qualified.

34 (e) The appointment of each member shall be made by the respective appointing authority
35 filing an affidavit with the clerk of the Superior Court of Douglas County no later than 30
36 days preceding the date on which such member is to take office stating the name and
37 residential address of the person appointed and certifying that such member has been duly
38 appointed as provided in this Act. The clerk of the superior court shall record each of such
39 certifications on the minutes of the court and shall certify the name of each member to the
40 Secretary of State and shall provide for the issuance of appropriate commissions to the
41 members within the same time and in the same manner as provided by law for registrars.

42 (f) Each member of the board shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself for one term
43 following the completion of one four-year term, not including any time served under an
44 interim appointment pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. Each member of the board
45 shall have the right to resign at any time by giving written notice of his or her resignation to
46 the respective appointing authority and to the clerk of the superior court. Each member of
47 the board shall be subject to removal from the board at any time for cause, after notice and
48 a hearing, in the same manner and by the same authority as provided for removal of
49 registrars.

50 (g) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of any member before the expiration of
51 his or her term by removal, death, resignation, or otherwise, the respective appointing
52 authority shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. The clerk
53 of the superior court shall be notified of interim appointments and record and certify such
54 appointments in the same manner as the regular appointment of members.

55 (h) Before entering upon his or her duties, each member shall take substantially the same
56 oath as required by law for registrars and shall have the same privileges from arrest."

57 **SECTION 2.**

58 The board of commissioners of Douglas County shall through its legal counsel cause this Act
59 to be submitted for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,
60 as amended, within 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor or
61 otherwise becomes law without such approval.

62

SECTION 3.

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