

House Bill 841

By: Representatives Beverly of the 143rd, Draper of the 90th, and Roberts of the 52nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to organization and members of the Public Service Commission, so as to provide for
3 members of the Public Service Commission to be elected from election districts instead of
4 state wide; to change the description of the election districts for members of the Public
5 Service Commission; to provide for manner of election and terms of office; to provide for
6 related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 organization and members of the Public Service Commission, is amended by revising Code
12 Section 46-2-1, relating to election of Public Service Commissioners and terms of office, as
13 follows:

14 "46-2-1.

15 (a) The Georgia Public Service Commission shall consist of five members to be elected
16 as provided in this Code section. The members in office on January 1, ~~2022~~ 2023, and any

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17 member appointed or elected to fill a vacancy in such membership prior to the expiration
 18 of a term of office shall continue to serve out their respective terms of office. As terms of
 19 office expire, new members elected to the commission shall be required to be residents of
 20 one of five Public Service Commission Districts as hereafter provided, ~~but each member~~
 21 ~~of the commission~~ and shall be elected ~~state-wide~~ by the qualified voters of ~~this state~~ their
 22 respective districts who are entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly. Except
 23 as otherwise provided in this Code section, the election shall be held under the same rules
 24 and regulations as apply to the election of Governor. The Commissioners, who shall give
 25 their entire time to the duties of their offices, shall be elected at the general election next
 26 preceding the expiration of the terms of office of the respective incumbents. Their terms
 27 of office shall be six years and shall expire on December 31.

28 (b) In order to be elected as a member of the commission from a Public Service
 29 Commission District, a person shall have resided in that district for at least 12 months prior
 30 to election thereto. A person elected as a member of the commission from a Public Service
 31 Commission District ~~by the voters of Georgia~~ shall continue to reside in that district during
 32 the person's term of office, or that office shall thereupon become vacant.

33 (c) For the purpose of electing the members of the Public Service Commission, this state
 34 shall be divided into five Public Service Commission Districts described as follows:

35 ~~District 001~~

36 ~~Appling County~~

37 ~~Atkinson County~~

38 ~~Bacon County~~

39 ~~Baker County~~

40 ~~Baldwin County~~

41 ~~Ben Hill County~~

42 ~~Berrien County~~

43 ~~Bibb County~~

- 44 ~~Bleckley County~~
- 45 ~~Brantley County~~
- 46 ~~Brooks County~~
- 47 ~~Bryan County~~
- 48 ~~Calhoun County~~
- 49 ~~Camden County~~
- 50 ~~Charlton County~~
- 51 ~~Chattahoochee County~~
- 52 ~~Clay County~~
- 53 ~~Clinch County~~
- 54 ~~Coffee County~~
- 55 ~~Colquitt County~~
- 56 ~~Cook County~~
- 57 ~~Crawford County~~
- 58 ~~Crisp County~~
- 59 ~~Decatur County~~
- 60 ~~Dodge County~~
- 61 ~~Dooly County~~
- 62 ~~Dougherty County~~
- 63 ~~Early County~~
- 64 ~~Echols County~~
- 65 ~~Evans County~~
- 66 ~~Glynn County~~
- 67 ~~Grady County~~
- 68 ~~Harris County~~
- 69 ~~Houston County~~
- 70 ~~Irwin County~~

- 71 ~~Jeff Davis County~~
- 72 ~~Johnson County~~
- 73 ~~Jones County~~
- 74 ~~Lanier County~~
- 75 ~~Laurens County~~
- 76 ~~Lee County~~
- 77 ~~Liberty County~~
- 78 ~~Long County~~
- 79 ~~Lowndes County~~
- 80 ~~Macon County~~
- 81 ~~Marion County~~
- 82 ~~McIntosh County~~
- 83 ~~Miller County~~
- 84 ~~Mitchell County~~
- 85 ~~Monroe County~~
- 86 ~~Montgomery County~~
- 87 ~~Muscogee County~~
- 88 ~~Peach County~~
- 89 ~~Pierce County~~
- 90 ~~Pulaski County~~
- 91 ~~Quitman County~~
- 92 ~~Randolph County~~
- 93 ~~Schley County~~
- 94 ~~Seminole County~~
- 95 ~~Stewart County~~
- 96 ~~Sumter County~~
- 97 ~~Talbot County~~

- 98 ~~Tattnall County~~
- 99 ~~Taylor County~~
- 100 ~~Telfair County~~
- 101 ~~Terrell County~~
- 102 ~~Thomas County~~
- 103 ~~Tift County~~
- 104 ~~Toombs County~~
- 105 ~~Treutlen County~~
- 106 ~~Turner County~~
- 107 ~~Twiggs County~~
- 108 ~~Ware County~~
- 109 ~~Wayne County~~
- 110 ~~Webster County~~
- 111 ~~Wheeler County~~
- 112 ~~Wilcox County~~
- 113 ~~Wilkinson County~~
- 114 ~~Worth County~~

- 115 ~~District 002~~
- 116 ~~Banks County~~
- 117 ~~Barrow County~~
- 118 ~~Bulloch County~~
- 119 ~~Burke County~~
- 120 ~~Butts County~~
- 121 ~~Candler County~~
- 122 ~~Chatham County~~
- 123 ~~Clarke County~~

- 124 ~~Columbia County~~
- 125 ~~Effingham County~~
- 126 ~~Elbert County~~
- 127 ~~Emanuel County~~
- 128 ~~Glascock County~~
- 129 ~~Greene County~~
- 130 ~~Hancock County~~
- 131 ~~Hart County~~
- 132 ~~Henry County~~
- 133 ~~Jackson County~~
- 134 ~~Jasper County~~
- 135 ~~Jefferson County~~
- 136 ~~Jenkins County~~
- 137 ~~Lincoln County~~
- 138 ~~Madison County~~
- 139 ~~McDuffie County~~
- 140 ~~Morgan County~~
- 141 ~~Newton County~~
- 142 ~~Oconee County~~
- 143 ~~Oglethorpe County~~
- 144 ~~Putnam County~~
- 145 ~~Richmond County~~
- 146 ~~Rockdale County~~
- 147 ~~Screven County~~
- 148 ~~Spalding County~~
- 149 ~~Taliaferro County~~
- 150 ~~Walton County~~

- 151 ~~Warren County~~
- 152 ~~Washington County~~
- 153 ~~Wilkes County~~
- 154 ~~District 003~~
- 155 ~~Clayton County~~
- 156 ~~DeKalb County~~
- 157 ~~Fulton County~~

- 158 ~~District 004~~
- 159 ~~Cherokee County~~
- 160 ~~Dawson County~~
- 161 ~~Fannin County~~
- 162 ~~Forsyth County~~
- 163 ~~Franklin County~~
- 164 ~~Gilmer County~~
- 165 ~~Gwinnett County~~
- 166 ~~Habersham County~~
- 167 ~~Hall County~~
- 168 ~~Lumpkin County~~
- 169 ~~Murray County~~
- 170 ~~Pickens County~~
- 171 ~~Rabun County~~
- 172 ~~Stephens County~~
- 173 ~~Towns County~~
- 174 ~~Union County~~
- 175 ~~White County~~
- 176 ~~Whitfield County~~

- 177 ~~District 005~~
- 178 ~~Bartow County~~
- 179 ~~Carroll County~~
- 180 ~~Catoosa County~~
- 181 ~~Chattooga County~~
- 182 ~~Cobb County~~
- 183 ~~Coweta County~~
- 184 ~~Dade County~~
- 185 ~~Douglas County~~
- 186 ~~Fayette County~~
- 187 ~~Floyd County~~
- 188 ~~Gordon County~~
- 189 ~~Haralson County~~
- 190 ~~Heard County~~
- 191 ~~Lamar County~~
- 192 ~~Meriwether County~~
- 193 ~~Paulding County~~
- 194 ~~Pike County~~
- 195 ~~Polk County~~
- 196 ~~Troup County~~
- 197 ~~Upson County~~
- 198 ~~Walker County~~

- 199 District 001
- 200 Appling County
- 201 Atkinson County
- 202 Bacon County

- 203 Baker County
- 204 Ben Hill County
- 205 Berrien County
- 206 Brantley County
- 207 Brooks County
- 208 Bryan County
- 209 Bulloch County
- 210 Calhoun County
- 211 Camden County
- 212 Candler County
- 213 Charlton County
- 214 Chatham County
- 215 Chattahoochee County
- 216 Clay County
- 217 Clinch County
- 218 Coffee County
- 219 Colquitt County
- 220 Cook County
- 221 Crisp County
- 222 Decatur County
- 223 Dodge County
- 224 Dooly County
- 225 Dougherty County
- 226 Early County
- 227 Echols County
- 228 Effingham County
- 229 Evans County

- 230 Glynn County
- 231 Grady County
- 232 Irwin County
- 233 Jeff Davis County
- 234 Lanier County
- 235 Lee County
- 236 Liberty County
- 237 Long County
- 238 Lowndes County
- 239 Macon County
- 240 Marion County
- 241 McIntosh County
- 242 Miller County
- 243 Mitchell County
- 244 Montgomery County
- 245 Muscogee County
- 246 Pierce County
- 247 Pulaski County
- 248 Quitman County
- 249 Randolph County
- 250 Schley County
- 251 Seminole County
- 252 Stewart County
- 253 Sumter County
- 254 Tattnall County
- 255 Telfair County
- 256 Terrell County

- 257 Thomas County
- 258 Tift County
- 259 Toombs County
- 260 Turner County
- 261 Ware County
- 262 Wayne County
- 263 Webster County
- 264 Wheeler County
- 265 Wilcox County
- 266 Worth County

- 267 District 002
- 268 Baldwin County
- 269 Barrow County
- 270 Bibb County
- 271 Bleckley County
- 272 Burke County
- 273 Clarke County
- 274 Emanuel County
- 275 Glascok County
- 276 Greene County
- 277 Gwinnett County
- 278 Hancock County
- 279 Houston County
- 280 Jackson County
- 281 Jasper County
- 282 Jefferson County

- 283 Jenkins County
- 284 Johnson County
- 285 Jones County
- 286 Laurens County
- 287 Morgan County
- 288 Newton County
- 289 Oconee County
- 290 Putnam County
- 291 Screven County
- 292 Treutlen County
- 293 Twiggs County
- 294 Walton County
- 295 Washington County
- 296 Wilkinson County

- 297 District 003
- 298 Clayton County
- 299 DeKalb County
- 300 Fulton County
- 301 Rockdale County

- 302 District 004
- 303 Banks County
- 304 Bartow County
- 305 Catoosa County
- 306 Chattooga County
- 307 Cherokee County

- 308 Columbia County
- 309 Dade County
- 310 Dawson County
- 311 Elbert County
- 312 Fannin County
- 313 Floyd County
- 314 Forsyth County
- 315 Franklin County
- 316 Gilmer County
- 317 Gordon County
- 318 Habersham County
- 319 Hall County
- 320 Hart County
- 321 Lincoln County
- 322 Lumpkin County
- 323 Madison County
- 324 McDuffie County
- 325 Murray County
- 326 Oglethorpe County
- 327 Pickens County
- 328 Rabun County
- 329 Richmond County
- 330 Stephens County
- 331 Taliaferro County
- 332 Towns County
- 333 Union County
- 334 Walker County

- 335 Warren County
- 336 White County
- 337 Whitfield County
- 338 Wilkes County

- 339 District 005
- 340 Butts County
- 341 Carroll County
- 342 Cobb County
- 343 Coweta County
- 344 Crawford County
- 345 Douglas County
- 346 Fayette County
- 347 Haralson County
- 348 Harris County
- 349 Heard County
- 350 Henry County
- 351 Lamar County
- 352 Meriwether County
- 353 Monroe County
- 354 Paulding County
- 355 Peach County
- 356 Pike County
- 357 Polk County
- 358 Spalding County
- 359 Talbot County
- 360 Taylor County

361 Troup County

362 Upson County

363 (d) ~~The first~~ Those members of the commission ~~elected under this Code section shall be~~
364 elected thereto on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2024, from
365 Public Service Commission Districts 3 and 5, shall take office on the first day of January
366 immediately following that election, and shall serve for terms of office of six years and
367 until the election and qualification of their respective successors. Those members of the
368 commission elected thereto on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in
369 November, 2026, from Public Service Commission Districts 1 and 4 shall take office on
370 the first day of January immediately following that election and shall serve for terms of
371 office of six years and until the election and qualification of their respective successors.
372 The member of the commission elected thereto on the Tuesday next following the first
373 Monday in November, ~~2022~~ 2028, from Public Service Commission District 2 shall take
374 office on the first day of January immediately following that election and shall serve for
375 a term of office of six years and until the election and qualification of his or her respective
376 successor. All future successors to members of the commission whose terms of office are
377 to expire shall be elected at the state-wide general election immediately preceding the
378 expiration of such terms, shall take office on the first day of January immediately following
379 that election, and shall serve for terms of office of six years."

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SECTION 2.

381 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
382 without such approval.

383

SECTION 3.

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