

House Bill 31

By: Representatives Prince of the 127<sup>th</sup> and Jackson of the 128<sup>th</sup>

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 Jefferson County desire the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners to levy an  
3 additional ad valorem tax for the purpose of realizing additional tax revenue to provide  
4 payment for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire  
5 hospital debt; to provide for legislative purposes and findings; to provide for procedures and  
6 requirements relating thereto; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the  
10 purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of Jefferson County desire the Jefferson County  
11 Board of Commissioners to levy an additional ad valorem tax for the purpose of realizing  
12 additional tax revenue to provide payment for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services  
13 and facilities and to retire hospital debt.

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

- 16 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of Jefferson County;
- 17 (2) A public purpose; and
- 18 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 The election superintendent of Jefferson County shall call and conduct a nonbinding advisory  
21 referendum election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting a question to  
22 the electors of Jefferson County to determine whether a majority of said electors desire the  
23 Jefferson County Board of Commissioners to levy an additional ad valorem tax to provide  
24 payment for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire  
25 hospital debt. The nonbinding advisory referendum election shall be held on March 21,

26 2017, and the election superintendent shall issue the call and conduct that election as  
 27 provided by general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the  
 28 election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof  
 29 in the official organ of Jefferson County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the  
 30 words:

31 **"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

- 32 ( ) YES Should the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners levy an ad valorem  
 33 tax of up to three mills in addition to the one already being levied for the  
 34 ( ) NO purpose of paying for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services and  
 35 facilities and to retire hospital debt?"

36 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and all persons  
 37 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election  
 38 shall be borne by Jefferson County. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify  
 39 the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

40 **SECTION 3.**

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