House Bill 1432 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)
By: Representatives Wade of the 9th and Ralston of the 7th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend an Act creating a board of elections and registration for Dawson County, approved April 23, 1998 (Ga. L. 1998, p. 4680), as amended, so as to provide for the appointment of the fifth member of the board; to conform the appointment process for the other members of the board with state law; to provide for staggered terms of the board; to revise the duties of the election supervisor; to provide for the appointment and duties of a chairperson and secretary of the board; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

An Act creating a board of elections and registration for Dawson County, approved April 23, 1998 (Ga. L. 1998, p. 4680), as amended, is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

SECTION 2.
(a) The board shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be an elector and a resident of the county. The members shall be appointed as provided in this section to

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allow for staggered terms. The terms of all members serving on the effective date of this
section will end on December 31, 2022.

(b)(1)(A) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Dawson
County from a list of nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive
committee of the political party whose candidate for president at the last election
preceding such appointment received the largest number of votes in the county.

(B) Two members shall be appointed by the governing authority of Dawson County
from a list of nominations made by the chairperson of the county executive committee
of the political party whose candidate for president at the election described in
subparagraph (A) of this paragraph received the next largest number of votes in the
county.

(2) Each of the nominations provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall have
been ratified by a majority of the members of each of such respective executive
committee voting at a regularly scheduled meeting of such executive committees or a
meeting duly called and held for such purpose. In the event such appointments are not
ratified by a majority of the members of such executive committees at least 60 days
preceding the date on which such members are to take office, then the members of the
respective executive committees may appoint such members by a two-thirds' majority of
the membership of such executive committees at a regularly scheduled meeting or at a
meeting duly called and held for such purpose. In the event the members of said
executive committees fail to appoint such members at least 30 days preceding the date
on which such members are to take office, such members shall be appointed by the
commissioners.

(3)(A) The governing authority of Dawson County shall designate one of the initial
members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this subsection
and one of the initial members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1)
of this subsection to serve for terms ending on December 31, 2023, and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

(B) The governing authority of Dawson County shall designate one of the initial members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this subsection and one of the initial members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of this subsection to serve for terms ending on December 31, 2025, and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

(C) Successors to such members shall be appointed to serve terms of four years and until their respective successors are appointed and qualified.

c The fifth member of the board shall be appointed by the governing authority of Dawson County from a list of nominations provided by the other members of the board. The initial member appointed pursuant to this subsection shall take office on January 1, 2023, for a term to end on December 31, 2026, and until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. Successors to such member shall be appointed to serve terms of four years and until their respective successors are appointed and qualified."

SECTION 2.

Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 12 as follows:

"(a) The board shall be authorized and empowered to organize itself; may elect from among its membership a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary; and shall determine its procedural rules and regulations, adopt bylaws, specify the functions and duties of its employees, and otherwise take such actions as are appropriate to the management of its affairs; provided, however, that no such action shall conflict with general law."
SECTION 14.

(a) The chairperson of the board shall be the chief executive officer of the board and shall oversee the administration of the affairs of the board pursuant to law and the duly adopted resolutions of the board.

(b) Compensation for the members of the board shall be fixed by the governing authority of Dawson County.

(c) All amounts payable under this section shall be paid from the funds of Dawson County.

SECTION 4.

Said Act is further amended by revising Section 16 as follows:

"SECTION 16.

The election supervisor, as director of the election and registration office, shall be responsible for the selection, appointment, and training of poll workers in elections."

SECTION 5.

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