

House Bill 730 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Lott of the 131st, Fleming of the 125th, Newton of the 127th, and Leverett of the 123rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to create a board of elections for Columbia County and to provide for its
2 powers and duties, approved March 23, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4180), as amended, so as to
3 revise provisions for the appointment of board members; to provide for the nomination of
4 certain potential board members; to update provisions relating to the certification of such
5 appointments; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act to create a board of elections for Columbia County and to provide for its powers and
10 duties, approved March 23, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4180), as amended, is amended by revising
11 Section 2 as follows:

12 "SECTION 2.

13 (a) The board of elections for Columbia County shall be composed of three members, each
14 of whom shall be an elector and a resident of Columbia County, and who shall be selected
15 in the following manner:

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16 (1) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Columbia County from
17 nominations made by the county executive committee of the political party whose
18 candidates received the largest number of votes in Columbia County at the last preceding
19 regular general election held for President of the United States in the general election
20 immediately preceding the appointment of the member;

21 (2) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Columbia County from
22 nominations made by the county executive committee of the political party whose
23 candidates received the second largest number of votes in Columbia County at the last
24 preceding regular general election held for President of the United States in the general
25 election immediately preceding the appointment of the member; and

26 (3) One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Columbia County, who
27 shall serve as chairperson of the board.

28 (b)(1) For nominations made pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this
29 section, the respective political party's county executive committee shall submit to the
30 governing authority of Columbia County a list of at least three nominees.

31 (2) The governing authority of Columbia County may reject any or all nominees for
32 appointment to the board and in the event that all of the nominees are rejected, the county
33 executive committee that nominated such rejected nominees shall submit a new list of
34 nominees.

35 (3) If a political party's county executive committee has not submitted or cannot submit
36 a list of nominees that is acceptable to the governing authority of Columbia County
37 within 15 days of an opening or a vacancy on the board, then such governing authority
38 shall appoint such board member at its own discretion.

39 (c) Those members of the board serving on the effective date of this section shall serve out
40 the terms to which they were appointed.

41 (d) All appointments shall be for terms of four years and until their successors are duly
42 appointed."

43 **SECTION 2.**

44 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 4 as follows:

45 "SECTION 4.

46 (a) Except as provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the appointment of
47 board members shall be made by the respective appointing authority filing an affidavit with
48 the clerk of the Superior Court of Columbia County, no earlier than 60 days and no later
49 than 30 days preceding the date on which such member is to take office, stating the name
50 and residential address of the person appointed and certifying that such member has been
51 duly appointed as provided in this Act.

52 (b) In the case of an appointment made to fill a vacancy, the appointment shall be so
53 certified in the same manner as provided for in subsection (a) of this section not later than
54 the tenth day following the date of the vacancy and shall take effect on such tenth day.

55 (c) The clerk of the superior court shall record each such certification on the minutes of
56 the court and shall certify the name of each such member to the Secretary of State and
57 provide for the issuance of appropriate commissions to the members and chairperson
58 within the same time and in the same manner as provided by law for registrars."

59 **SECTION 3.**

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