A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To create the Joint Board of Elections and Registration of Pike County, which shall conduct primaries and elections for Pike County, the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon; to provide for its powers and duties; to provide for definitions; to provide for the composition of the board and the selection and appointment of members; to provide for the qualification, terms, and removal of members; to provide for oaths and privileges; to provide for meetings, procedures, and vacancies; to relieve certain officers of powers and duties and to provide for the transfer of functions to the newly created board; to provide for an election supervisor and the duties of such office; to provide for certain expenditures of public funds; to provide for certain personnel; to provide for compensation of members of the board and personnel; to provide for offices and equipment; to provide for the board's performance of certain functions and duties for certain municipalities; to provide for related matters; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 21-2-45 of the O.C.G.A., there is created the Joint Board of Elections and Registration of Pike County, hereinafter referred to as "the board." Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the board shall have the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the election superintendent of Pike County, the municipal election superintendents of the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon, and the board of registrars of Pike County, all as provided for under Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

SECTION 2.

The terms "election," "political party," "primary," and "public office" shall have the same meanings as set forth in Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code,"

H. B. 623
- 1 -
unless otherwise clearly apparent from the context of this Act, and the term "commissioners" means the board of commissioners of Pike County and "county" means Pike County.

SECTION 3.

(a) The board shall be composed of five members who shall be appointed by the Pike County Board of Commissioners.

(b) All appointments to the board shall be promptly certified by the appointing authority to the clerk of the Superior Court of Pike County.

(c) The initial appointees to the board shall take office on July 1, 2019. Successors to each member shall thereafter be appointed by the appropriate appointing authority or authorities to serve a term of office of four years and until his or her respective successor is duly appointed and qualified.

(d) Pike County shall make appointments no more than 60 days before a vacancy occurs and no more than 60 days after a vacancy occurs.

SECTION 4.

(a) No person who holds elective public office shall be eligible to serve as a member of the board during the term of such elective office, and the position of any member of the board shall be deemed vacant upon such member's qualifying as a candidate for elective public office.

(b) Members of the board must be residents of Pike County or their respective appointing city, as appropriate, and must have been registered voters in Pike County for a period of at least one year prior to the date of their appointment to the board.

SECTION 5.

The appointing authorities shall certify the appointment of each member of the board by filing an affidavit with the clerk of the Superior Court of Pike County not later than 15 days preceding the date upon which such members are to take office, stating the name and residential address of the person appointed and certifying that such member has been duly appointed as provided in this Act. The clerk of the superior court shall record each such certification on the minutes of the superior court and shall certify the name of each such appointed member to the Secretary of State and provide for the issuance of appropriate commissions to the members within the same time and in the same manner as provided by law for registrars.
SECTION 6.

Each member of the board shall have the right to resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the governing authority of Pike County, the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon, as appropriate, and to the clerk of the superior court, and shall be subject to removal from the board by the chief judge of the Superior Court of Pike County at any time, for cause, after notice and hearing.

SECTION 7.

In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of any appointed member before the expiration of his or her term, by removal, death, resignation, or otherwise, the authority that appointed the member whose position has been vacated shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the unexpired term as provided for in Section 3 of this Act. The clerk of the superior court shall be notified of such interim appointments and shall record and certify such appointments in the same manner as the regular appointment of members.

SECTION 8.

Before entering upon the member's duties, each member shall take substantially the same oath as required by law for registrars and shall have the same privileges from arrest.

SECTION 9.

(a) The board shall be authorized to organize itself, elect a chairperson, determine its procedural rules and regulations, adopt bylaws, specify the functions and duties of its employees, and otherwise take such action as is appropriate to the management of the affairs committed to its supervision; provided, however, that no such action shall conflict with state law. Actions and decisions by the board shall be by majority vote of the members of the board. The board shall be responsible for the selection, appointment, and training of poll workers in primaries and elections.

(b) The board shall fix and establish, by appropriate resolution entered on its minutes, directives governing the execution of matters within its jurisdiction. Any specially called meeting shall be called by the chairperson or any member of the board. The board shall maintain a written record of policy decisions amended to include additions or deletions. Such written records shall be made available for the public to review.

(c) The board shall establish an annual budget. The budget shall be approved by Pike County. The board's operational costs, including personnel, shall be paid by Pike County, the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson,
and the City of Zebulon as set forth in an intergovernmental agreement to be entered into among the governing bodies of such political subdivisions.

SECTION 10.

(a) At the request of the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon, as appropriate, the board shall conduct the holding of any municipal primary or election within the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon. Each city shall designate polling places and handle the qualifying of candidates for their respective municipal primaries and elections, unless the board is otherwise requested to handle such duties.

(b) The board shall be responsible for the holding of any municipal primary or election to be conducted within the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon, and the cost of any such election shall be paid for from the funds of such cities.

SECTION 11.

(a) The election supervisor shall be a Pike County employee. Such position may be full time or part time. The election supervisor shall direct and control the administration of elections and voter registration in Pike County and, except as otherwise provided for in this Act, the holding of any municipal primary or election to be conducted within the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon and shall supervise, direct, and control the administration of the affairs of the board pursuant to law and duly adopted resolutions of the board. The election supervisor shall not be an elected official or a member of the board, but shall be supervised by the board. As an employee of Pike County, the election supervisor shall be entitled to the same benefits as other employees of Pike County.

(b) Subject to county approval, the board is authorized to employ additional clerical assistants as needed to carry out the duties and functions of the board. All such clerical assistants shall be considered to be employees of Pike County and shall be entitled to the same benefits as other employees of Pike County.

(c) The election supervisor and the clerical assistants shall be under the exclusive control, direction, and supervision of the board; provided, however, that all employees of the board shall be subject to the Pike County personnel policy and procedure manual.
SECTION 12.
Compensation for the members of the board, the election supervisor, clerical assistants, and other employees shall be fixed by the governing authority of Pike County. Such compensation shall be paid from county funds and from the annual lump sum of municipal funds of the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon as provided for in Section 9 of this Act.

SECTION 13.
The governing authority of Pike County shall provide the board with proper and suitable offices, equipment, materials, and supplies and with clerical assistance and other employees, which may include current employees of the board of registrars of Pike County, as the governing authority of Pike County deems appropriate.

SECTION 14.
This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval for purposes of making initial appointments to the board only. This Act shall become fully effective on July 1, 2019. Upon this Act becoming fully effective, the superintendent of elections of Pike County, the board of registrars of Pike County, and, except as otherwise provided for in this Act, the municipal election superintendents of the Town of Concord, the City of Meansville, the City of Molena, the Town of Williamson, and the City of Zebulon shall be relieved of all powers and duties to which the board succeeds by the provisions of this Act and shall deliver to the board all equipment, supplies, materials, books, papers, records, and facilities pertaining to such powers and duties.

SECTION 15.
All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.