

Senate Bill 62

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Henson of the 41st, Butler of the 55th, Jones II of the 22nd, Tate of the 38th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 21-2-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 preparation, printing, publicizing, and distributing of summary of general amendments to
3 Constitution of Georgia, so as to change the procedure for preparation of said summary; to
4 amend Article 6 of Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating
5 to the Constitutional Amendments Publication Board, so as to change the makeup of the
6 board; to provide for related matters; to provide a contingent effective date and automatic
7 repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 21-2-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to preparation,
11 printing, publicizing, and distributing of summary of general amendments to Constitution of
12 Georgia, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

13 "(a) The summary of general amendments to the Constitution of Georgia prepared by ~~the~~
14 ~~Attorney General, the legislative counsel, and the Secretary of State~~ a seven-member
15 proposal summary committee consisting of two appointees of the dean of the University
16 of Georgia School of Law, two appointees of the dean of the Georgia State University
17 College of Law, and three appointees of the Supreme Court of Georgia pursuant to
18 Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution of Georgia shall be printed by the
19 Secretary of State in sufficient quantities to make available a copy of such summary to any
20 interested citizen requesting a copy. In preparing the summary provided by this provision
21 of the Constitution of Georgia, ~~the Attorney General, the legislative counsel, and the~~
22 ~~Secretary of State~~ such proposal summary committee shall provide an explanation of each
23 proposed general amendment to the Constitution of Georgia in language free of legalistic
24 and technical terms, to the end that the summary may be read and understood by the
25 majority of citizens of this state. The Secretary of State shall be authorized to include with
26 such summary, as a part of the same document, a summary or explanation of any state-wide

27 referendum questions to be voted on at the same general election and any other explanatory
28 materials as may be deemed appropriate by the Secretary of State."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 Article 6 of Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
31 Constitutional Amendments Publication Board, is amended by revising Code Section
32 50-12-100, relating to creation of board, composition, purpose, chairman, and vote
33 requirements, as follows:

34 "50-12-100.

35 There is created the Constitutional Amendments Publication Board to be composed of ~~the~~
36 ~~Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives~~ two
37 appointees of the dean of the University of Georgia School of Law, two appointees of the
38 dean of the Georgia State University College of Law, and three appointees of the Supreme
39 Court of Georgia. The board shall provide for the publication of proposed constitutional
40 amendments or of a proposed new Constitution, or of both such amendments and such
41 Constitution, pursuant to Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The
42 ~~Governor shall be~~ members of the board shall choose from among their number a chairman
43 chairperson of the board, which shall meet upon the call of the ~~chairman~~ chairperson or
44 upon the call of any ~~two~~ four members of the board. The ~~chairman~~ chairperson shall have
45 a vote on all actions the same as the other members of the board, and no action shall be
46 taken without the affirmative vote of any ~~two~~ four members of the board."

47 **SECTION 3.**

48 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2019, only if an amendment to the
49 Constitution providing that summaries of proposed amendments to the Georgia Constitution
50 shall be prepared by a committee consisting of two appointees of the dean of the University
51 of Georgia School of Law, two appointees of the dean of the Georgia State University
52 College of Law, and three appointees of the Supreme Court of Georgia is ratified by the
53 voters at the November, 2018, state-wide general election. If such an amendment is not so
54 ratified, then this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed on January 1, 2019.

55 **SECTION 4.**

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