

House Bill 187 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Dickey of the 140th, Peake of the 141st, and Holmes of the 129th

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 Monroe County desire the Monroe County Board of Commissioners to levy an
3 annual ad valorem tax and issue further appropriate debt instruments to support the continued
4 availability of health care services for the citizens of the county at Monroe County Hospital,
5 including services for the indigent citizens of the county, and to service hospital debt; to
6 provide for legislative purposes and findings; to provide for procedures and requirements
7 relating thereto; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the
11 purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of Monroe County desire the Monroe County
12 Board of Commissioners to levy an annual ad valorem tax and issue further appropriate debt
13 instruments to support the continued availability of health care services for the citizens of the
14 county at Monroe County Hospital, including services for the indigent citizens of the county,
15 and to service hospital debt.

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

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

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 The election superintendent of Monroe County shall call and conduct a nonbinding advisory
23 referendum election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting a question to
24 the electors of Monroe County to determine whether a majority of said electors desire the
25 Monroe County Board of Commissioners to levy an annual ad valorem tax and issue further

26 appropriate debt instruments to support the continued availability of health care services for
 27 the citizens of the county at Monroe County Hospital, including services for the indigent
 28 citizens of the county, and to service hospital debt. The nonbinding advisory referendum
 29 election shall be held on March 21, 2017, or at the earliest possible date allowed by law, and
 30 the election superintendent shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by
 31 general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to
 32 be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the
 33 manner required by law. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

34 " YES NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM
 35 NO Shall the governing authority of Monroe County levy an annual ad valorem
 36 tax not exceeding one (1) mill, and issue up to \$4 million in appropriate
 37 debt instruments, to be allocated to the Hospital Authority of Monroe
 38 County to support the continued availability of health care services for the
 39 citizens of the county at Monroe County Hospital, including services for the
 40 indigent citizens of the county, and to service hospital debt?

41 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and all persons
 42 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election
 43 shall be borne by Monroe County. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify the
 44 result thereof to the Secretary of State.

45 **SECTION 3.**

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