

Senate Bill 13

By: Senator Stone of the 23rd

AS PASSED

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 Jefferson County desire the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners to levy an
 3 ad valorem tax for the purpose of paying for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services
 4 and facilities and to retire hospital debt; to provide for legislative purposes and findings; to
 5 provide for procedures and requirements relating thereto; to repeal an Act providing for a
 6 nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of
 7 Jefferson County desire the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners to levy an additional
 8 ad valorem tax for the purpose of realizing additional tax revenue to provide payment for
 9 Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire hospital debt; to
 10 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the
 14 purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of Jefferson County desire the Jefferson County
 15 Board of Commissioners to levy an ad valorem tax for the purpose of paying for Jefferson
 16 County Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire hospital debt.

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

19 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of Jefferson County;

20 (2) A public purpose; and

21 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

22 **SECTION 2.**

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

27 paying for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire hospital
 28 debt. The nonbinding advisory referendum election shall be held on March 21, 2017, and
 29 the election superintendent shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by
 30 general law. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to
 31 be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the
 32 official organ of Jefferson County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the
 33 words:

"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM

34 () YES Should the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners levy an ad valorem
 35 tax of up to three mills for the purpose of paying for Jefferson County

36 () NO Hospital Authority's services and facilities and to retire hospital debt?"

37 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and all persons
 38 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election
 39 shall be borne by Jefferson County. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify
 40 the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

41 **SECTION 2A.**

42 An Act providing for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining
 43 whether the electors of Jefferson County desire the Jefferson County Board of
 44 Commissioners to levy an additional ad valorem tax for the purpose of realizing
 45 additional tax revenue to provide payment for Jefferson County Hospital Authority's
 46 services and facilities and to retire hospital debt, approved January 24, 2017 (2017 Act
 47 No. 1 enacting HB 31), is hereby repealed in its entirety.

48 **SECTION 3.**

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