

OCONEE COUNTY – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; BONDS;
CHAIRPERSON’S POWERS AND DUTIES; COMPENSATION.

No. 570 (House Bill No. 1335).

AN ACT

To amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Oconee County, approved August 18, 1917 (Ga. L. 1917, p. 384), as amended, so as to change the provisions relating to bonds of the chairperson and members of the board of commissioners: to change the provisions relating to the powers and duties of the chairperson of the board of commissioners; to change the provisions relating to the compensation of the chairperson and the members of the board of commissioners; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

An Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Oconee County, approved August 18, 1917 (Ga. L. 1917, p. 384), as amended, is amended by striking Section 6 of said Act and inserting in its place the following:

“SECTION 6.

Before entering the duties of the office of chairperson or commissioner, the chairperson and each member of the board of commissioners shall take the oath required of all civil officers of this state and shall be bonded in the amount of \$25,000.00 by a good and solvent bonding company authorized to do business in this state. Such bond shall be approved by the judge of the Probate Court of Oconee County, shall be filed in the office of the judge of the probate court, and shall be payable to the Governor of this state and the Governor’s successor in office for the use of Oconee County. Such bond shall be conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of the office of chairperson or commissioner. The cost of said bond shall be paid from the general funds of Oconee County.”

SECTION 2.

Said Act is further amended by striking Section 9 of said Act and inserting in its place the following:

“SECTION 9.

(a) The chairperson of the board of commissioners shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) To act as the chief executive officer of the county;

- (2) To act as presiding officer at all meetings of the board, including the duty of preserving order and decorum at such meetings;
- (3) To state every question coming before the board and to announce the decision of the board on all subjects and to decide all questions of order, subject, however, to an appeal to the board, in which event a majority vote of the board shall govern and conclusively determine such question;
- (4) To exercise the right to vote to break a tie vote;
- (5) To execute all ordinances, resolutions, and contracts in behalf of the county;
- (6) To act as ceremonial head of the county government; and
- (8) To exercise other duties that may be delegated to the chairperson by the board of commissioners.

(b) In the event of a vacancy in the office of the chairperson or the illness, incapacity, absence, or failure to act, the duties of the chairperson may be exercised by the vice chairperson. In the event of a vacancy, illness, absence, incapacity, or failure to act by the chairperson for a period exceeding 30 days, the vice chairperson, on approval of the board of commissioners, shall be compensated in the same amount as that provided for the office of chairperson.”

SECTION 3.

Said Act is further amended by striking Section 12 of said ACT and inserting in its place the following:

“SECTION 12.

- (a) The chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Oconee County shall receive a base salary of 113 percent of the highest base salary payable to the following county officers: the sheriff, probate judge, tax commissioner, and clerk of superior court. ‘Base salary’ means the base salary determined by local law for said offices.
- (b) The members of the board of commissioners shall each be paid a salary of 27 percent of the highest base salary payable to the following county officers: the sheriff, probate judge, tax commissioner, and clerk of superior court.
- (c) The chairperson and members shall receive an additional amount of 5 percent of their respective salaries for each four-year term as a commissioner completed by such chairperson or member and an annual cost-of-living adjustment. Cost-of-living adjustments shall be determined in the same manner as for the county officers whose salary is used in the calculation of the salaries due the chairperson or the member.

(d) Said compensation shall be paid in equal monthly installments from the funds of the county.

(e) The chairperson and members shall also be entitled to participate in the county's retirement program, health insurance coverage, life insurance coverage, and other benefits available to county employees, to be paid by the county.”

SECTION 4.

This Act shall become effective on January 1, 1999.

SECTION 5.

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

EXISTING LEGISLATION