

## SUMMARY OF GEORGIA'S NEW REGISTRATION LAW

(HOUSE BILL NO. 718, AS PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE - 1958)

- I. Hereafter any person desiring to qualify to vote in any primary, general or special election, must register under this law, but those qualified to vote in 1956 need not re-register.
- II. The Judge of the Superior Court or the Senior Judge in each county shall appoint, every four years, three registrars from six citizens nominated by the Grand Jury, one being named as Chief Registrar, and two shall serve as Deputy Registrars. They shall serve four years, or until successors are appointed. The Judge may remove them for cause, appoint successors in case of removal, death, or resignation. Present registrars shall serve until July 1, 1961.  
\*In Fulton County, however, the Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner, will serve as Chief Registrar, and two of his deputies shall serve as County Registrars.
- III. Registration for a General Election shall cease six months before its date and registrars may suspend operations while the voters' list is being prepared, except for one day a week for receiving applications.
- IV. A registration card shall be provided by the County Registrars, which shall contain the oath. Spaces for answers to certain questions, indicated hereafter, are also provided on said card. The registrars shall have charge of the cards in their office or that of the Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner. Any deputy registrar may administer the oath.
- V. Each applicant ~~must furnish~~ information for the registration card and the official taking the application shall read or repeat the oath distinctly to the applicant, who shall sign his name or make his mark if he cannot sign his name, in which case the official will sign for him.
- VI. If the applicant has been convicted of a crime specified on the application and has not been pardoned, the application shall be rejected. If not so convicted, the applicant shall be notified in writing to appear for examination as to his qualifications within five days after examination of the card.
- VII. Failure to disclose required information or giving of false information shall be grounds for removing a voter's name from the registration list. Decisions of the registrars are subject to appeal in writing within 10 days, to the registrars, who shall return it to the Clerk of the Superior Court to be tried with other appeals. Pending the appeal and final judgment, the decision of the registrars shall remain in full force.
- VIII. Registration procedure shall be as follows:
  - A. If the applicant applies on the basis of literacy:
    1. He shall be required to read aloud and write in the English language a section of the Constitution of Georgia or of the United States. If he reads it intelligibly, writes it legibly and has the other necessary qualifications and is not disqualified for any other reason, the applicant shall be registered as a voter.
    2. If because of physical disability he cannot read or write he must give a reasonable interpretation of said section in his own words to become a registered voter. The section shall be read to him.
  - B. If he cannot read and write and wants to qualify on the basis of good character and understanding of citizenship, he shall be examined on the 30 questions.