

**GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Commissioners:  
Mac Barber, Chairman  
Dave Baker  
Bobby Baker  
Bob Durden  
Stan Wise

**NEWS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:****March 20, 1998**

CONTACT: Shawn Davis  
Public Information Office  
(404) 656-6558 or 1-800-282-5813

**BILL PASSES REQUIRING PSC MEMBERS TO RUN FROM DISTRICTS****BOBBY BAKER AND DAVE BAKER ABLE TO SEEK RE-ELECTION**

ATLANTA -- Beginning with the 2000 election, candidates for the state's Public Service Commission (PSC) will continue to be elected statewide but must qualify from one of five newly drawn districts as a result of legislation passed in the waning hours of the General Assembly. Despite early attempts to prevent Commissioners Bobby Baker and Dave Baker from seeking re-election, the bill's author conceded to a bipartisan Senate amendment.

In its original form, H.B. 95 would have prevented Commissioners Bobby Baker and Dave Baker from seeking re-election. The Senate, in a bipartisan effort authored by Senators Chuck Clay and Charles Walker, amended the bill so as not to affect sitting Public Service Commissioners. Split along party lines, the House disagreed with the Senate, but in the last hour of the session accepted the Senate version.

"The House version was blatantly partisan. I still question district qualification for a statewide office, but at least this version is fair to all involved," said Commissioner Dave Baker.

The legislation was first introduced in 1996 - just one year after Republicans for the first time became the majority on the PSC.

Since the legislation doesn't take effect until the 2000 election, Commissioner Bobby Baker will be able to seek re-election in 1998 from his home in Gwinnett.

However, when his seat comes up for re-election in 2004, candidates for district 2 must qualify from Southwest Georgia. Commissioners Dave Baker and Stan Wise can seek re-election in 2000 from their homes in Fulton County and Cobb Counties respectively. Commissioners Bob Durden (R-Gwinnett) and Mac Barber (D-Commerce) will have to face one another in 2002 or one will have to relocate to district 1 in Southeast Georgia to seek re-election.

###