

House Bill 1228

By: Representatives Stallings of the 100<sup>th</sup>, West of the 101<sup>st</sup> and Snelling of the 99<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Villa Rica, approved April 25, 1975  
2 (Ga. L. 1975, p. 4575), as amended, so as to change the description of the wards for the  
3 election of members of the council; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for  
4 continuation in office of the mayor and current members of the council until the expiration  
5 of the terms to which they were elected; to provide for election and terms of office of  
6 subsequent members; to provide for submission of this Act for approval under the federal  
7 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting  
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 An Act providing a new charter for the City of Villa Rica, approved April 25, 1975 (Ga. L.  
12 1975, p. 4575), as amended, is amended by striking Section 5.10 and inserting in its place  
13 the following:

14 style="text-align:center">"SECTION 5.10.

15 style="text-align:center">Elections; terms of office.

16 (a) The mayor and councilmembers who are serving as such on July 1, 2002, and any  
17 person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall continue to serve as such officers  
18 until the regular expiration of their respective terms of office and upon the election and  
19 qualification of their respective successors. Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, as they exist on July  
20 1, 2002, shall continue to be designated as Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but as  
21 newly described under this Act, and on and after July 1, 2002, such members of the board  
22 serving from those former wards shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their  
23 respective wards as newly described under this Act.

1 (b) At the general municipal election on 2003, there shall be elected a mayor and  
2 councilmembers to represent wards 1 and 2. Such officers shall have terms of office  
3 expiring December 31, 2007; and their successors shall be elected at the general municipal  
4 election in 2007 and quadrennially thereafter for terms of four years.

5 (c) At the general municipal election on 2005, there shall be elected councilmembers to  
6 represent wards 3, 4, and 5. Such officers shall have terms of office expiring December  
7 31, 2009; and their successors shall be elected at the general municipal election in 2009 and  
8 quadrennially thereafter for terms of four years.

9 (d) All elections for the office of mayor shall be by the voters of the entire city. Each  
10 election for the office of councilmember shall be by only the voters of the ward the  
11 councilmember is to represent. All elections shall be by a majority of the votes cast.

12 (e) All general municipal elections shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in  
13 November.

14 (f) Persons newly elected as mayor or councilmember at any general municipal election  
15 shall take office on January 1 following the election.

16 (g) The mayor and all councilmembers shall serve for the terms specified in this section  
17 and until their successors are elected and qualified.

18 (h) The boundaries of the five wards for elections for councilmembers shall be and  
19 correspond to those five numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part  
20 of this Act and further identified as Plan Name: villaricap1 Plan Type: Local User: Tara  
21 Administrator: Villa rica. Such attachment may also be referred to as Appendix B of the  
22 city charter. Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 shall be the same territory identified in such  
23 attachment as districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 respectively.

24 (i) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean and  
25 describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the  
26 Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The  
27 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading  
28 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report  
29 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of  
30 Georgia. Any part of the City of Villa Rica which is not included in any such ward or  
31 district described in that attachment shall be included within that ward or district  
32 contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States  
33 decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Any part of the City of Villa Rica which  
34 is described in that attachment as being in a particular ward or district shall nevertheless  
35 not be included within such ward or district if such part is not contiguous to such ward or  
36 district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that ward or district  
37 contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States

1 decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. Except as otherwise provided in the  
2 description of any council ward or district, whenever the description of such ward or  
3 district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as  
4 shown on the census map for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of  
5 Georgia."

6 **SECTION 2.**

7 It shall be the duty of the attorney of the City of Villa Rica to submit this Act for approval  
8 pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

9 **SECTION 3.**

10 This section and Section 2 of this Act shall become effective upon the approval of this Act  
11 by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval. The remaining provisions  
12 of this Act shall become effective July 1, 2002.

13 **SECTION 4.**

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