

House Bill 1442

By: Representative Skipper of the 137th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing for a new charter for the City of Americus, approved April 13,
2 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5985), as amended, so as to change the description of the council
3 districts; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for continuation in office of
4 current members; to provide for election and terms of office of subsequent members; to
5 provide for submission of this Act for approval under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,
6 as amended; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act providing for a new charter for the City of Americus, approved April 13, 1992 (Ga.
10 L. 1992, p. 5985), as amended, is amended by striking Section 5-102 and inserting in its
11 place a new Section 5-102 to read as follows:

12 "SECTION 5-102.

13 Regular elections; time for holding.

14 (a) The mayor and those members of the city council who are serving as such on
15 December 31, 2002, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall
16 continue to serve as such mayor or members until the regular expiration of their respective
17 terms of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors. On
18 and after January 1, 2003, the governing authority of the City of Americus shall consist of
19 six councilmembers all of whom shall be elected from council districts described in
20 subsection (b) of this section and the mayor who is elected at large as provided in this Act.

21 (b) For purposes of electing members of the city council, the City of Americus is divided
22 into six council districts. One member of the city council shall be elected from each such
23 district. The six council districts shall be and correspond to those six numbered districts

1 described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as Plan
2 Name: amercc2 Plan Type: Local User: Gina Administrator: Americus.

3 (c) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
4 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of
5 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The
6 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading
7 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report
8 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of
9 Georgia. Any part of the City of Americus which is not included in any such district
10 described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part
11 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000
12 for the State of Georgia. Any part of the City of Americus which is described in that
13 attachment as being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such
14 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead
15 be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population
16 according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

17 (d) The mayor and members of the city council shall be elected as provided in this
18 subsection. The mayor and the first members from Council Districts 3, 4, and 5 shall be
19 elected at the general election on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in
20 November, 2005. The mayor and those council members elected thereto from
21 Commissioner Districts 3, 4, and 5 in 2005 shall take office the first day of January
22 immediately following that election and shall serve for initial terms of office which expire
23 December 31, 2009, and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors.
24 The first members from Council Districts 1, 2, and 6 shall be elected at the general election
25 on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2003. Those council
26 members elected thereto from Council Districts 1, 2, and 6 in 2003 shall take office the first
27 day of January immediately following that election and shall serve for initial terms of
28 office which expire December 31, 2007, and upon the election and qualification of their
29 respective successors. Those and all future successors to the mayor and members of the
30 city council whose terms of office are to expire shall be elected at the time of the municipal
31 general election immediately preceding the expiration of such terms, shall take office the
32 first day of January immediately following that election, and shall serve for terms of office
33 of four years each. The mayor and members of the city council shall serve for the terms
34 of office specified therefor in this subsection and until their respective successors are
35 elected and qualified.

36 (e) Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, as they exist on December 31, 2002, shall continue
37 to be designated as Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, respectively, but as newly

1 described under this Act, and on and after January 1, 2003, such members of the city
2 council serving from those former council districts shall be deemed to be serving from and
3 representing their respective districts as newly described under this Act.”

4 **SECTION 2.**

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

7 **SECTION 3.**

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