

House Bill 1670

By: Representatives Allen of the 117th, Anderson of the 116th and Howard of the 118th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing for the consolidation of Richmond County and the City of
2 Augusta, approved March 27, 1995 (Ga. L. 1995, p. 3648), as amended, so as to change the
3 provisions relating to the powers and duties of the mayor and the mayor pro tempore; to
4 provide that the mayor shall not be a member of the commission and shall not have the right
5 to vote on any matter before the commission; to authorize the mayor to veto ordinances,
6 resolutions, and actions of the commission; to provide for practices and procedures for the
7 veto and the overriding thereof; to change the provisions relating to the organization of the
8 commission and the creation and abolition of committees; to change the provisions relating
9 to the powers and duties of the mayor and the mayor pro tempore; to provide for related
10 matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

13 An Act providing for the consolidation of Richmond County and the City of Augusta,
14 approved March 27, 1995 (Ga. L. 1995, p. 3648), as amended, is amended by striking
15 subsection (b) of Section 2 of said Act and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

16 "(b) All members of the commission shall be full voting members of the commission. The
17 mayor shall not be a member of the commission and shall not have the right to vote on any
18 matter before the commission."

19 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

20 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 4 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

21 style="text-align:center">"SECTION 4.

22 (a)(1) The mayor shall be the chief executive officer of the consolidated government of
23 Richmond County and the City of Augusta. The mayor shall possess and exercise the
24 following executive and administrative powers and duties:

1 (A) To serve as the official head of Richmond County and the City of Augusta for the
2 service of process and for ceremonial purposes;

3 (B) To administer oaths and to take affidavits;

4 (C) To sign all written contracts entered into by the commission on behalf of
5 Richmond County and the City of Augusta and all other contracts and instruments
6 executed by the county and city which by law are required to be in writing;

7 (D) To ensure that all laws, ordinances, and resolutions of Richmond County and the
8 City of Augusta are faithfully executed; and

9 (E) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be required
10 by ordinance or resolution of the commission.

11 (2)(A) The mayor shall have the right to veto ordinances, resolutions, or other actions
12 of the commission. Every ordinance, resolution, or other action of the commission
13 intended to have the effect of law shall be presented by the clerk of the commission to
14 the mayor within three days after its adoption by the commission.

15 (B) The mayor shall within ten days of receipt of an ordinance, resolution, or other
16 action of the commission intended to have the effect of law return it to the clerk of the
17 commission with or without the mayor's approval or with the mayor's veto. If the
18 ordinance, resolution, or other action of the commission intended to have the effect of
19 law has been approved by the mayor, it shall become law upon its return to the clerk of
20 the commission. If the ordinance, resolution, or other action of the commission
21 intended to have the effect of law is neither approved nor disapproved by the mayor,
22 it shall become law on the fifteenth day after its adoption by the commission. If the
23 ordinance, resolution, or other action of the commission intended to have the effect of
24 law is vetoed by the mayor, the mayor shall submit to the commission through the clerk
25 of the commission a written statement of the reasons for the veto and, unless such veto
26 is overridden as provided herein, such ordinance, resolution, or other action shall not
27 become effective. The clerk of the commission shall record upon the ordinance,
28 resolution, or other action of the commission the date of its delivery to and receipt from
29 the mayor.

30 (C) Ordinances, resolutions, or other actions of the commission that are vetoed by the
31 mayor shall be presented by the clerk of the commission to the commission at its next
32 meeting. Should the commission then or at its next general meeting adopt the
33 ordinance, resolution, or other action by an affirmative vote of seven members of the
34 commission, such ordinance, resolution, or other action shall become law.

35 (b) The members of the commission shall elect a mayor pro tempore at their first regular
36 meeting in January, 1996, and at such meeting in each year thereafter. The mayor pro
37 tempore shall preside at commission meetings and perform such other duties as may be

1 entrusted to the office of the mayor pro tempore by action of the commission. The mayor
 2 pro tempore shall continue to be a full voting member of the commission when serving in
 3 the capacity of mayor pro tempore. No person who has served two consecutive full
 4 one-year terms of office as mayor pro tempore shall again be eligible to hold office as
 5 mayor pro tempore until after the expiration of one year from the conclusion of that
 6 person's last term of office as mayor pro tempore.

7 (c) At its first regular meeting in January of each even-numbered year, the commission
 8 shall organize itself. The mayor pro tempore shall recommend to the commission the
 9 creation of such committees as the mayor pro tempore deems appropriate and the proposed
 10 membership thereof. All committees shall be created and abolished by the commission and
 11 the number of members of each such committee shall be as directed by the commission.
 12 The mayor pro tempore shall appoint the members, chairpersons, and officers to all such
 13 committees. The mayor shall not have a right to vote on the creation or abolition of any
 14 committee. The mayor shall not be a voting member of any committee established by the
 15 commission and appointed by the mayor pro tempore."

16 **SECTION 3.**

17 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 6 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

18 "SECTION 6.

19 Seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of ordinary
 20 business and such quorum must be maintained during the course of a meeting to transact
 21 official business. An affirmative vote of a majority of the members shall be required for
 22 the commission to take action. Official action of the commission shall be entered upon its
 23 minutes. Any member of the commission shall have the right to request a roll-call vote."

24 **SECTION 4.**

25 Said Act is further amended by inserting at the end of Section 13 a new subsection (i) to read
 26 as follows:

27 "(i) The mayor shall be authorized to appoint a member to serve on each board,
 28 commission, committee, panel, authority, or other entity created by the commission
 29 pursuant to subsection (f) of this section."

30 **SECTION 5.**

31 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2003.

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SECTION 6.

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