

House Bill 1668

By: Representatives Stephens of the 150th and Pelote of the 149th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Garden City, approved April 17, 1973
2 (Ga. L. 1973, p. 3581), as amended, so as to change the provisions relating to the terms of
3 office of the mayor and councilmembers; to change the provisions relating to municipal
4 elections; to provide for submission of this Act for approval under the federal Voting Rights
5 Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal;
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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SECTION 1.

10 An Act creating a new charter for the City of Garden City, approved April 17, 1973 (Ga. L.
11 1973, p. 3581), as amended, is amended by striking Section 2.11 and inserting in its place
12 the following:

13

"SECTION 2.11.

14

Term and qualifications of office.

15 Except as provided in Section 5.12, the members of the council shall serve for terms of four
16 years and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be
17 eligible to serve as mayor or councilmember unless he or she shall have been a resident of
18 the city for a period of one year immediately prior to the date of the election of mayor or
19 member of the council; shall continue to reside therein during his or her period of service;
20 and shall be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of Garden City; and
21 unless he or she shall meet the qualifications required of members of the Georgia House of
22 Representatives, as are now or may in the future be prescribed by the Georgia Constitution."

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SECTION 2.

24 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 3.11 and inserting in its place the following:

1 "SECTION 3.11.

2 Term; qualifications; compensation.

3 Except as provided in Section 5.12, the mayor shall be elected for a term of four years and
4 until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The mayor shall be a qualified elector of
5 Garden City; shall meet the qualifications required of members of the Georgia House of
6 Representatives as are now or may in the future be prescribed by the Georgia Constitution;
7 and shall have been a resident of Garden City for a period of one year immediately preceding
8 his or her election. The mayor shall continue to reside in Garden City during the period of
9 his or her service. In addition to the mayor's actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
10 performance of his or her duties of office as provided in Section 2.13, the mayor shall be
11 entitled to be reimbursed for any actual time lost from his or her regular employment while
12 performing his or her official duties as mayor subject to such reimbursement being at the
13 same rate of compensation received in his or her regular employment and further subject to
14 such reimbursement being approved at a regular council meeting by four affirmative votes
15 of the councilmembers present."

16 **SECTION 3.**

17 Said Act is further amended by striking Section 5.12 and inserting in its place the following:

18 "SECTION 5.12.

19 Regular election; time for holding.

20 At the regular municipal election on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November,
21 2003, an election shall be held for the mayor and seven councilmembers. The person
22 elected to the office of mayor and the three members elected to the council who received
23 the highest number of votes for their respective offices in such election shall have initial
24 terms of office of four years each and until their respective successors are elected and
25 qualified. The other four members elected to the council in such election shall have initial
26 terms of office of two years each and until their respective successors are elected and
27 qualified. Thereafter, successors shall be elected at the regular municipal election on the
28 Tuesday following the first Monday in November in each odd-numbered year immediately
29 preceding the expiration of the term of office and shall have terms of four years each and
30 until their respective successors are elected and qualified. All members shall take office
31 on the first day of January immediately following the date of their election."

