

Senate Bill 86

By: Senators Hudgens of the 47th, Zamarripa of the 36th, Reed of the 35th, and Kemp of the 46th

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 66A of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 transfer of development rights, so as to define certain terms; to revise procedures relative to  
3 the creation of the transfer of development rights within or between political subdivisions;  
4 to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Chapter 66A of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to transfer of  
8 development rights, is amended by striking Code Section 36-66A-1, relating to definitions,  
9 and Code Section 36-66A-2, relating to procedures, methods, and standards, and inserting  
10 in their place new Code Sections 36-66A-1 and 36-66A-2 to read as follows:

11 "36-66A-1.

12 As used in this chapter, the term:

13 (1) 'Development rights' means the maximum development that would be allowed on the  
14 sending property under any general or specific plan and local zoning ordinance of a  
15 municipality or county in effect on the date the municipality or county adopts an  
16 ordinance pursuant to this chapter. Development rights may be calculated and allocated  
17 in accordance with factors including dwelling units, area, floor area, floor area ration,  
18 height limitations, traffic generation, or any other criteria that will quantify a value for  
19 the development rights in a manner that will carry out the objectives of this Code section.

20 (2) 'Person' means any natural person, corporation, partnership, trust, foundation,  
21 nonprofit agency, or other legal entity.

22 (3) 'Receiving area' means an area identified by an ordinance as an area authorized to  
23 receive development rights transferred from a sending area.

24 (4) 'Receiving property' means a lot or parcel within which development rights are  
25 increased pursuant to a transfer of development rights. Receiving property shall be  
26 appropriate and suitable for development and shall be sufficient to accommodate the

1 transferable development rights of the sending property without substantial adverse  
 2 environmental, economic, or social impact to the receiving property or to neighboring  
 3 property.

4 (5) 'Sending area' means an area identified by an ordinance as an area from which  
 5 development rights are authorized to be transferred to a receiving area.

6 (6) 'Sending property' means a lot or parcel with special characteristics, including farm  
 7 land; woodland; desert land; mountain land; a flood plain; natural habitats; wetlands;  
 8 groundwater recharge area; marsh hammocks; recreation areas or parkland, including golf  
 9 course areas; or land that has unique aesthetic, architectural, or historic value that a  
 10 municipality or county desires to protect from future development.

11 (7) 'Transfer of development rights' means the process by which development rights from  
 12 a sending property are affixed to one or more receiving properties.

13  
 14 36-66A-2.

15 (a) Pursuant to the provisions of this Code section, the governing body of any municipality  
 16 or county by ordinance may, in order to conserve and promote the public health, safety, and  
 17 general welfare, establish procedures, methods, and standards for the transfer of  
 18 development rights within its jurisdiction.

19 (b)(1) Any proposed transfer of development rights shall be subject to the approval and  
 20 consent of the property owners of both the sending and receiving property ~~and shall be~~  
 21 ~~subject to a separate vote of approval or disapproval by the local governing authority.~~

22 ~~(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, an ordinance~~  
 23 ~~enacted by the governing authority of a consolidated government may, but is not required~~  
 24 ~~to, provide that any proposed transfer of development rights shall be subject to a separate~~  
 25 ~~vote of approval or disapproval by the governing authority.~~

26 (c) Prior to any transfer of development rights, a municipality or county shall adopt an  
 27 ordinance providing for:

28 (1) The issuance and recordation of the instruments necessary to sever development  
 29 rights from the sending property and to affix development rights to the receiving  
 30 property. These instruments shall be executed by the affected property owners and  
 31 lienholders;

32 (2) The preservation of the character of the sending property and assurance that the  
 33 prohibitions against the use and development of the sending property shall bind the  
 34 landowner and every successor in interest to the landowner;

35 (3) The severance of transferable development rights from the sending property and the  
 36 delayed transfer of development rights to a receiving property;

1 (4) The purchase, sale, exchange, or other conveyance of transferable development rights  
2 prior to the rights being affixed to a receiving property;

3 (5) A system for monitoring the severance, ownership, assignment, and transfer of  
4 transferable development rights;

5 (6) The right of a municipality or county to purchase development rights and to hold  
6 them for conservation purposes or resale;

7 (7) The right of a person to purchase development rights and to hold them for  
8 conservation purposes or resale;

9 (8) Development rights made transferable pursuant to this Code section shall be interests  
10 in real property and shall be considered as such for purposes of conveyancing and  
11 taxation. Once a deed of transferable development rights created pursuant to this Code  
12 section has been sold, conveyed, or otherwise transferred by the owner of the parcel from  
13 which the development rights were derived, the transfer of development rights shall vest  
14 in the grantee and become freely alienable. For the purposes of ad valorem real property  
15 taxation, the value of a transferable development right shall be deemed appurtenant to the  
16 sending property until the transferable development right is registered as a distinct  
17 interest in real property with the appropriate tax assessor or the transferable development  
18 right is used at a receiving property and becomes appurtenant thereto;

19 (9) A map or other description of areas designated as sending and receiving areas for the  
20 transfer of development rights between properties; and

21 (10) Such other provisions as the municipality or county deems necessary to aid in the  
22 implementation of the provisions of this chapter.

23 (d)(1) Prior to the enactment of an ordinance as provided in subsection (c) of this Code  
24 section ~~and prior to any action to approve or disapprove a proposed transfer required by~~  
25 ~~paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section,~~ the local governing authority shall  
26 provide for a hearing on the proposed ordinance ~~or transfer~~. At least 15 but not more than  
27 45 days prior to the date of the hearing, the local governing authority shall cause to be  
28 published in a newspaper of general circulation within the territorial boundaries of the  
29 political subdivision a notice of the hearing. The notice shall state the time, place, and  
30 purpose of the hearing. ~~Any proposed transfer of development rights requiring approval~~  
31 ~~or disapproval of the local governing authority shall be subject to any signage~~  
32 ~~requirements required by law for rezonings.~~

33 (2) Prior to any changes in an area designated in an ordinance as a sending or receiving  
34 area, the local governing authority shall provide for notice and a hearing as provided in  
35 paragraph (1) of this subsection.

36 (e) Proposed transfers of development rights shall become effective upon the recording of  
37 the conveyance with the appropriate deed-recording authorities and the filing of a certified

1 copy of such recording with the local governing authority of each political subdivision in  
2 which a sending or receiving area is located in whole or in part.

3 (f) Municipalities and counties which are jointly affected by development are authorized  
4 to enter in to intergovernmental agreements for the purpose of enacting interdependent  
5 ordinances providing for the transfer of development rights between or among such  
6 jurisdictions, provided that such agreements otherwise comply with applicable laws. Any  
7 ordinances enacted pursuant to this subsection may provide for additional notice and  
8 hearing and signage requirements applicable to properties within the sending and receiving  
9 areas in each participating political subdivision."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
12 without such approval.

13 **SECTION 3.**

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