

House Bill 991 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Stokes of the 72nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Covington, approved January 30,
2 1962 (Ga. L. 1962, p. 2003), as amended, so as to change the corporate limits of said city and
3 provide for referendum approval; to provide that the referendum shall be conducted by the
4 election superintendent of Newton County with the costs paid by the City of Covington from
5 city funds; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act providing a new charter for the City of Covington, approved January 30, 1962 (Ga.
9 L. 1962, p. 2003), as amended, is amended by adding after Section 4 thereof a new section
10 to read as follows:

11 **"SECTION 4.1.**

12 The existing corporate limits of the City of Covington shall be expanded to include the
13 following described property:

14 **TRACT ONE:**

15 All those tracts or parcels of land lying and being in Newton County, Georgia, within an
16 area of approximately 245 acres and whose aggregate external boundary is more
17 particularly described as follows:

18 Beginning at the intersection of the corporate limits of the City of Covington with the
19 southeastern line of the right-of-way of Georgia Highway 142; thence in a northwesterly
20 direction along the line of the corporate limits of the City of Covington, and following
21 the curvature thereof, to its intersection with the northwestern line of the right-of-way of
22 CSX Railroad; thence in a northeasterly direction along the northwestern line of the
23 right-of-way of CSX Railroad to its intersection with the southern line of the right-of-way
24 of Interstate Highway 20; thence in a westerly direction along the southern right-of-way
25 line of Interstate Highway 20 to its intersection with the line of the corporate limits of the

1 City of Covington; thence in a northwesterly direction along the line of the corporate
 2 limits of the City of Covington to its intersection with the northern line of the
 3 right-of-way of Interstate Highway 20; thence in a generally easterly direction along the
 4 northern line of the right-of-way of Interstate Highway 20, and following the curvatures
 5 thereof, to its intersection with the centerline of the Alcovy River; thence in a southerly
 6 direction along the centerline of the Alcovy River, and following the meanderings
 7 thereof, to its intersection with the southern line of the right-of-way of Interstate Highway
 8 20; thence in a generally westerly direction along the southern line of the right-of-way
 9 of Interstate Highway 20, and following the curvatures thereof, to the northwestern corner
 10 of Lochridge Industrial Park; thence South 12° 08' 59" East a distance of 232 feet; thence
 11 North 86° 17' 54" West a distance of 210 feet to the eastern line of the right-of-way of
 12 Georgia Highway 142; thence in a southwesterly direction along said right-of-way line,
 13 and following the curvature thereof, a distance of 563.15 feet; thence South 60° 39' 52"
 14 East a distance of 507.21 feet; thence South 29° 25' 27" West a distance of 707.72 feet;
 15 thence South 5° 22' 52" East a distance of 397.03 feet; thence South 85° 39' 09" West a
 16 distance of 884.88 feet to the eastern line of Georgia Highway 142; thence South 27° 25'
 17 51" East along said right-of-way line a distance of 818.39 feet to the point of beginning.

18 TRACT TWO:

19 All those tracts or parcels of land lying and being in Newton County, Georgia, within an
 20 area of approximately 174 acres and whose aggregate external boundary is more
 21 particularly described as follows:

22 Beginning on the northern line of the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 278 at a point
 23 124.63 feet from the intersection of the eastern line of the right-of-way of Riverbend
 24 Drive with the northern line of the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 278, as measured in
 25 an easterly direction along the northern line of U. S. Highway 278, said point also being
 26 the intersection of the corporate limits of the City of Covington with the northern line of
 27 the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 278; thence in a northern direction along the line of
 28 the corporate limits of the City of Covington a distance of 2,452 feet to the southern line
 29 of Land Lot 261, Ninth Land District, which Land Lot line is also the southern boundary
 30 of Lochridge Industrial Park and the line of the corporate limits of the City of Covington
 31 at that point; thence in a westerly direction along the line of the corporate limits of the
 32 City of Covington and the southern boundary of Lochridge Industrial Park a distance of
 33 approximately 3,635 feet to the western line of Land Lot 258, Ninth Land District; thence
 34 south 04° 18' 05" East along the line of the corporate limits of the City of Covington a
 35 distance of 1,597.2 feet; thence South 84° 38' 41" West along the line of the corporate

1 limits of the City of Covington a distance of 949.17 feet; thence in a southeasterly
 2 direction along the line of the corporate limits of the City of Covington to the southern
 3 line of the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 278; thence in a southeasterly direction along
 4 the southern line of the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 278 a distance of approximately
 5 1,000 feet to its intersection with the eastern line of Land Lot 257, Ninth Land District;
 6 thence in a northerly direction along said Land Lot line to its intersection with the
 7 northern line of the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 278; thence in a southeasterly
 8 direction along the northern line of the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 278 a distance of
 9 approximately 2,900 feet to the point of beginning."

10

SECTION 2.

11 (a) For the purposes of the referendum election provided for in subsection (b) of this section,
 12 the qualified electors of Newton County shall be those qualified electors of Newton County
 13 residing within the territory described in Section 1 of this Act which territory is to be
 14 annexed to the City of Covington in Section 4.1 of the charter of that city.

15 (b) Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election
 16 superintendent of Newton County shall call a special election for the purpose of submitting
 17 this Act to the qualified electors of Newton County, as provided in subsection (a) of this
 18 section, for approval or rejection. The superintendent shall set the date of such election for
 19 the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2003. The superintendent shall
 20 issue the call for such election at least 30 days prior to the date thereof. The superintendent
 21 shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks
 22 immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Newton County. The ballot
 23 shall have written or printed thereon the words:

24 "() YES Shall the Act annexing additional property into the corporate limits of the
 25 () NO City of Covington be approved?"

26 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and those persons
 27 desiring to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes
 28 cast on such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full
 29 force and effect upon certification of the results to the Secretary of State, otherwise it shall
 30 be void and of no force and effect. The expense of such election shall be borne by the City
 31 of Covington. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to hold and conduct such election.
 32 It shall be his or her further duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

33

SECTION 3.

34 This section and the provisions of this Act necessary for the special election provided for in
 35 Section 2 of this Act shall become effective upon approval of this Act by the Governor or

1 upon this Act's otherwise becoming law. The remaining provisions of this Act shall become
2 effective as provided in Section 2 of this Act.

3 **SECTION 4.**

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