

House Bill 1661

By: Representatives Black of the 144th, Borders of the 142nd, and Shaw of the 143rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To create the Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority; to provide for a short title; to
2 confer powers and impose duties on the authority; to provide for the membership and the
3 appointment of members of the authority and their terms of office, qualifications, duties,
4 powers, and compensation; to provide for vacancies, organization, meetings, and expenses;
5 to provide for definitions; to provide for revenue bonds and their form, signatures thereon,
6 negotiability, sale, and use of proceeds from such sales; to provide for interim documents and
7 for lost or mutilated documents; to provide for condition for issuance; to prohibit the pledge
8 of credit for the payment of bonds; to provide for trust indentures and sinking fund; to
9 provide for payment of bond proceeds; to provide for bondholder remedies and protection;
10 to provide for refunding bonds; to provide for bond validation; to provide for venue and
11 jurisdiction; to provide for trust funds; to provide for authority purpose; to provide for
12 charges; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for tort immunity; to provide for tax
13 exemptions; to provide for supplemental powers; to provide for effect on other governments;
14 to provide for perpetual existence and dissolution; to provide for liberal construction; to
15 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

17 **SECTION 1.**

18 Short Title.

19 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Lowndes County Public Facilities
20 Authority Act."

SECTION 2.

Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority.

(a) There is hereby created a public body corporate and politic to be known as the "Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority," which shall be deemed to be a political subdivision of the state and a public corporation, and by that name, style, and title said body may contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain and defend in all courts of law and equity.

(b) The authority shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Lowndes County. With respect to the initial appointment by the board of commissioners of that county, two members shall be appointed for a term of three years, two members shall be appointed for a term of two years, and one member shall be appointed for a term of one year. Thereafter, all appointments shall be made for terms of three years, or in the case of the appointment of a member to serve the unexpired term of a member who has resigned or been removed or otherwise vacated such office, for the remaining period of such unexpired term. Immediately after such appointments the members of the authority shall enter upon their duties. To be eligible for appointment as a member of the authority a person shall be at least 21 years of age, a resident of Lowndes County for at least three years prior to the date of his or her appointment, and shall not have been convicted of a felony. Any member of the authority may be selected and appointed to succeed himself or herself. If at the end of any term of office of any member a successor thereto has not been elected, the member whose term of office has expired shall continue to hold office until his or her successor is so appointed; provided, however, the term of office of any such successor shall be deemed to commence on the day following the expired term of the member then holding office. The Board of Commissioners of Lowndes County may appoint no more than one member of that board of commissioners as a member of the authority. That board of commissioners shall have the right to remove any member for good cause shown.

(c) The Board of Commissioners of Lowndes County may provide by resolution for compensation for the services of the members of the authority in such amounts as it may deem appropriate; provided, however, that such members shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

(d) The members of the authority shall elect one of their number as chairperson and another as a vice chairperson. The members of the authority shall also elect a secretary, who need not be a member of the authority, and may also elect a treasurer, who need not be a member of the authority. The secretary may also serve as treasurer. If the secretary or treasurer is not a member of the authority, such officer shall have no voting rights. Each of such officers

1 shall serve for a period of one year and until his or her successor is duly elected and
2 qualified.

3 (e) Three members of the authority shall constitute a quorum. No vacancy on the authority
4 shall impair the right of the quorum to exercise all of the rights and perform all of the duties
5 of the authority.

6 (f) The authority may adopt bylaws, policies, procedures, and other rules with respect to its
7 organization and internal management, including, without limitation, provisions relating to
8 the calling and conduction of meetings of the members of the authority, whether in person
9 or by telephone conference or otherwise, and may delegate to one or more of its officers,
10 agents, and employees such powers and duties as the authority may deem necessary or
11 convenient.

12 **SECTION 3.**

13 Definitions.

14 As used in this Act, the term:

15 (1) "Authority" means the Lowndes County Public Facilities Authority created by this
16 Act.

17 (2) "Costs of the project" means and embraces the cost of acquisition, construction,
18 reconstruction, renovation, or improvement; the cost of all lands, properties, rights,
19 easements, and franchises acquired; the cost of all furniture, fixtures, machinery,
20 equipment, and other real and personal property and interests therein; financing charges;
21 interest prior to and during construction and for such additional period as the authority
22 shall reasonably determine to be necessary after completion of construction in order to
23 place the project in operation; the cost of engineering, architectural, fiscal advisory,
24 consulting, and legal services, plans and specifications, and other expenses necessary or
25 incidental to determining the feasibility or practicability of the project; administrative
26 expenses and such other expenses as may be necessary or incident to the financing herein
27 authorized; working capital; and all other costs incurred to acquire, construct, add to,
28 extend, renovate, improve, equip, operate, or maintain any project.

29 (3) "County" means Lowndes County, Georgia, and any successor political subdivision.

30 (4) "Local governmental unit" means the county and any municipal corporation, school
31 district, or political subdivision of the state located in the county, or any department,
32 division, authority, or instrumentality of the county or any such municipal corporation,
33 school district, or political subdivision, including, without limitation, any joint or
34 multijurisdictional authority or public body which has as one of its members or sponsors

1 the county or any one or more of such municipal corporations, school districts, or
2 political subdivisions located in the county.

3 (5) "Project" means:

4 (A) All lands, buildings, structures, facilities, improvements, furnishings, fixtures,
5 machinery and equipment, and any other real or personal property or any interest in real
6 or personal property of any nature whatsoever; provided that at least a majority of the
7 members of the authority has determined by a duly adopted resolution that such project
8 is necessary or convenient for the efficient operation of any local governmental unit or
9 any department, agency, division, authority, or commission thereof; and

10 (B) Any "undertaking" permitted by the Revenue Bond Law. A project may consist
11 of any personal property or real property or any combination thereof.

12 (6) "Revenue Bond Law" means Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the
13 Revenue Bond Law, as amended, or any other similar law hereinafter enacted.

14 (7) "Revenue bonds" means revenue bonds authorized to be issued pursuant to this Act.

15 (8) "Self-liquidating" means any project for which the revenues and earnings to be
16 derived by the authority therefrom, including but not limited to any contractual payments
17 to be received from governmental or private entities, and all properties used, leased, and
18 sold in connection therewith, together with any grants, will be sufficient to pay the costs
19 of operating, maintaining, and repairing the project and to pay the principal and interest
20 on the revenue bonds or other obligations which may be issued for the purpose of paying
21 the costs of the project.

22 (9) "State" means the State of Georgia.

23 **SECTION 4.**

24 Powers.

25 The authority shall have the power:

26 (1) To have a seal and alter the same at its pleasure;

27 (2) To acquire by purchase, lease, gift, condemnation, or otherwise and to hold, operate,
28 maintain, lease, and dispose of real and personal property of every kind and character for
29 its corporate purposes;

30 (3) To acquire in its own name by purchase, on such terms and conditions and in such
31 manner as it may deem proper, or by condemnation, in accordance with the provisions
32 of any and all existing laws applicable to the condemnation of property for public use,
33 real property or rights or easements therein, or franchises necessary or convenient for its
34 corporate purposes, and to use the same so long as its corporate existence shall continue,
35 and to lease or make contracts with respect to the use of or dispose of the same in any

1 manner it deems to the best advantage of the authority, the authority being under no
2 obligation to accept and pay for any property condemned under this Act, except from the
3 funds provided under the authority of this Act; and in any proceedings to condemn, such
4 orders may be made by the court having jurisdiction of the suit, action, or proceedings
5 as may be just to the authority and to the owners of the property to be condemned; and
6 no property shall be acquired under the provisions of this Act upon which any lien or
7 encumbrance exists, unless at the time such property is so acquired a sufficient sum of
8 money is to be deposited in trust to pay and redeem the fair value of such lien or
9 encumbrance;

10 (4) To appoint, select, and employ officers, agents, and employees, including
11 engineering, architectural, and construction experts, fiscal agents, and attorneys, and to
12 provide for their compensation and reimbursement of their expenses;

13 (5) To execute contracts, leases, installment sale agreements, and other agreements and
14 instruments necessary or convenient to exercise the powers of the authority, including,
15 but not limited to, any contracts in connection with the acquisition, construction, addition,
16 extension, improvement, equipping, operation, maintenance, or financing of a project;
17 and any and all persons, firms, and corporations and any local governmental unit or units
18 are hereby authorized to enter into contracts, leases, installment sale agreements, and
19 other agreements or instruments with the authority upon such terms and for such purposes
20 as they deem advisable and as they are authorized by law;

21 (6) To acquire, construct, add to, extend, improve, equip, hold, operate, maintain, lease,
22 and dispose of any project, whether located on land owned or leased by the authority or
23 owned or leased by others;

24 (7) To pay the costs of the project with the proceeds of revenue bonds or other
25 obligations issued by the authority, from any grant or contribution from the United States
26 of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, from the state or any agency or
27 instrumentality or other political subdivision thereof, or from any other source
28 whatsoever;

29 (8) To accept loans, grants, or both loans and grants of money, materials, or property of
30 any kind from the United States of America, the state, or any agency, instrumentality, or
31 political subdivision of the United States of America or the state upon such terms and
32 conditions as the United States of America, the state, or such agency, instrumentality, or
33 political subdivision thereof may require;

34 (9) To borrow money for any of its corporate purposes and to issue revenue bonds and
35 other obligations, leases, trust indentures, loan agreements, agreements for the sale of its
36 revenue bonds, notes, or other obligations and any security documents or instruments

1 deemed necessary or desirable, in the judgment of the authority, to evidence and provide
2 security for any such borrowing;

3 (10) To contract for any period, not exceeding 50 years, with the state, any local
4 governmental unit, or any other municipal corporation, county, or other political
5 subdivision of the state for the use by the authority of any facilities or services of the
6 state, any local governmental unit, or any other municipal corporation, county, or other
7 political subdivision of the state, or for the use by the state, any local governmental unit,
8 or any other municipal corporation, county, or other political subdivision of the state of
9 any facilities or services of the authority; provided that such contracts shall deal with such
10 activities and transactions as the authority and any such local governmental unit or any
11 other municipal corporation, county, or other political subdivision of the state are
12 authorized by law to undertake. For purposes of this paragraph, references to the state,
13 any local governmental unit, or any other municipal corporation, county, or other political
14 subdivision of the state shall include any department, division, authority, or
15 instrumentality of one or more of such entities;

16 (11) To extend credit or make loans to any person, firm, or corporation, or to any local
17 governmental unit, for the costs of the project, which credit or loans may be evidenced
18 or secured by loan agreements, notes, assignments, and other security documents,
19 obligations, or instruments, or by rentals, revenues, fees, or charges, upon such terms and
20 conditions as the authority shall determine to be reasonable in connection with the
21 extension of credit or loans;

22 (12) As security for repayment of any revenue bonds, notes, or other obligations of the
23 authority, to pledge, mortgage, convey or assign, or otherwise encumber any property of
24 the authority and to execute any lease, trust indenture, trust agreement, agreement of sale,
25 security agreement, mortgage, or deed to secure debt or other documents or instruments
26 as may be necessary or desirable, in the judgment of the authority, to secure any such
27 revenue bonds, notes, or other obligations;

28 (13) To exercise any power granted by the laws of this state to public or private
29 corporations which is not in conflict with the purposes of the authority; and

30 (14) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly given in
31 this Act.

32 **SECTION 5.**

33 Revenue bonds generally.

34 (a) Generally, the authority, or any authority or body which has or which may in the future
35 succeed to the powers, duties, and liabilities vested in the authority created hereby, shall have

1 power and is hereby authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance of revenue bonds
2 of the authority for the purpose of paying all or any part of the costs of the project and for the
3 purpose of refunding revenue bonds or other obligations previously issued. The principal of
4 and interest on such revenue bonds shall be payable solely from the special fund hereby
5 provided for such payment. The revenue bonds of each issue shall be dated, shall bear
6 interest at such rate or rates per annum (which may be fixed, may fluctuate, or otherwise
7 change, or may accrue without payment for any period of time), shall be payable at such time
8 or times, shall mature at such time or times not exceeding 40 years from their date or dates,
9 shall be payable in such medium of payment as to both principal and interest, and may be
10 subject to redemption on such terms, and shall contain such other terms, provisions,
11 covenants, assignments, and conditions, all as may be determined by the authority and set
12 forth in the resolution or any indenture or trust agreement adopted or entered into by the
13 authority in connection with the issuance of such revenue bonds.

14 (b) The authority shall determine the form of the revenue bonds and shall fix the
15 denomination or denominations of the revenue bonds. The revenue bonds may be issued in
16 coupon or registered form, or both, as the authority may determine, and provision may be
17 made for registration, transfer, and exchangeability privileges. The authority shall fix the
18 place or places of payment of principal and interest thereon.

19 (c) All such revenue bonds shall bear the manual or facsimile signature of the chairperson
20 or vice chairperson of the authority and the attesting manual or facsimile signature of the
21 secretary, assistant secretary, or secretary-treasurer of the authority, and the official seal of
22 the authority shall be impressed or imprinted thereon or otherwise affixed thereto. Any
23 coupons attached to the revenue bonds shall bear the manual or facsimile signatures of the
24 chairperson or vice chairperson and the secretary, assistant secretary, or secretary-treasurer
25 of the authority. Any revenue bonds or coupons attached thereto may bear the manual or
26 facsimile signature of such person as at the actual time of the execution of such revenue
27 bonds or coupons shall be duly authorized or hold the proper office, although at the date of
28 issuance of such revenue bonds such person may not have been so authorized or shall not
29 have held such office. In case any officer whose signature shall appear on any revenue bond
30 or any coupon shall cease to be such officer before the delivery of such revenue bond, such
31 signature shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes, the same as if that person
32 had remained in office until such delivery.

33 (d) All revenue bonds shall have and are hereby declared to have all the qualities and
34 incidents of negotiable instruments under the laws of the state. All revenue bonds, their
35 transfer, and the income therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation within the state.

36 (e) The authority may sell revenue bonds in such manner, in such amounts, and for such
37 prices as it may determine to be in the best interest of the authority. There shall be no

1 limitation upon the amount of revenue bonds, notes, or other obligations which the authority
2 may issue. The proceeds derived from the sale of revenue bonds shall be used solely for the
3 purpose or purposes provided in the resolutions and proceedings authorizing the issuance of
4 such revenue bonds.

5 (f) Prior to the preparation of any definitive revenue bonds, the authority may, under like
6 restrictions, issue interim receipts, interim certificates, or temporary revenue bonds, with or
7 without coupons, exchangeable for definitive revenue bonds upon the issuance of the latter.

8 (g) The authority may provide for the replacement of any revenue bonds or coupons which
9 shall become mutilated or be destroyed or lost.

10 (h) The authority shall adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance of the revenue bonds. In
11 the resolution, the authority shall determine that the project financed with the proceeds of the
12 revenue bonds is self-liquidating. Revenue bonds may be issued without any other
13 proceedings or the happening of any other conditions or things other than those proceedings,
14 conditions, and things which are specified or required by this Act. Any resolution providing
15 for the issuance of revenue bonds under the provisions of this Act shall become effective
16 immediately upon its passage and need not be published or posted, and any such resolution
17 may be passed at any regular or special or adjourned meeting of the authority by a majority
18 of its members.

19 **SECTION 6.**

20 Credit not pledged.

21 Revenue bonds shall not be deemed to constitute a debt of the state, the county, or any other
22 county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of the state, nor a pledge of the faith
23 and credit of the state, the county, or any other county, municipal corporation, or political
24 subdivision of the state, but such revenue bonds shall be payable solely from the fund
25 hereinafter provided for. The issuance of such revenue bonds shall not directly, indirectly,
26 or contingently obligate the state, the county, or any other county, municipal corporation, or
27 political subdivision of the state to levy or to pledge any form of taxation whatsoever for
28 payment of such revenue bonds or to make any appropriation for their payment, and all such
29 revenue bonds shall contain recitals on their face covering substantially the foregoing
30 provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, this Act shall not affect
31 the ability of the authority and any political subdivision or municipality to enter into an
32 intergovernmental contract pursuant to which the political subdivision or municipality agrees
33 to pay amounts sufficient to pay operating charges and other costs of the authority or any
34 project, including, without limitation, the principal of and interest on revenue bonds in
35 consideration for services or facilities of the authority.

SECTION 7.

Trust indenture as security.

In the discretion of the authority, any issuance of revenue bonds may be secured by a trust indenture by and between the authority and a corporate trustee, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the state. Either the resolution providing for the issuance of the revenue bonds or such trust indenture may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders as may be reasonable and proper and not in violation of law, including covenants setting forth the duties of the authority in relation to the acquisition and construction of the project, the maintenance, operation, repair, and insuring of the project, and the custody, safeguarding, and application of all moneys.

SECTION 8.

To whom proceeds of bonds shall be paid.

In the resolution providing for the issuance of revenue bonds or in the trust indenture, the authority shall provide for the payment of the proceeds of the sale of the revenue bonds to any officer or person who, or any agency, bank, or trust company which, shall act as trustee of such funds and shall hold and apply the same to the purposes thereof, subject to such regulations as this Act and such resolution or trust indenture may provide.

SECTION 9.

Sinking fund.

The moneys received pursuant to an intergovernmental contract and the revenues, fees, tolls, charges, and earnings derived from any particular project or projects, regardless of whether or not such revenues, fees, tolls, fines, charges, and earnings were produced by a particular project for which revenue bonds have been issued, unless otherwise pledged and allocated, may be pledged and allocated by the authority, in whole or in part, to the payment of the principal of and interest on revenue bonds of the authority as the resolution authorizing the issuance of the revenue bonds or in the trust indenture may provide; and such funds so pledged from whatever source received shall be set aside at regular intervals as may be provided in the resolution or trust indenture into a sinking fund, which said sinking fund shall be pledged to and charged with the payment of:

(1) The interest upon such revenue bonds as such interest shall fall due;

(2) The principal or purchase price of such revenue bonds as the same shall fall due;

- 1 (3) Any premium upon such revenue bonds as the same shall fall due;
 2 (4) The purchase of such revenue bonds in the open market; and
 3 (5) The necessary charges of the paying agent for paying principal and interest.
 4 The use and disposition of such sinking fund shall be subject to such regulations as may be
 5 provided in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the revenue bonds or in the trust
 6 indenture, but, except as may otherwise be provided in such resolution or trust indenture,
 7 such sinking fund shall be maintained as a trust account for the benefit of all revenue bonds
 8 without distinction or priority of one over another.

9 **SECTION 10.**

10 Remedies of bondholders.

11 Any holder of revenue bonds or any of the coupons appertaining thereto, and the trustee
 12 under the trust indenture, if any, except to the extent the rights herein given may be restricted
 13 by resolution passed before the issuance of the revenue bonds or by the trust indenture, may,
 14 either at law or in equity and by suit, action, mandamus, or other proceedings, protect and
 15 enforce any and all rights under the laws of the state, including specifically but without
 16 limitation the Revenue Bond Law, or granted hereunder or under such resolution or trust
 17 indenture, and may enforce and compel performance of all duties required by this Act or by
 18 such resolution or trust indenture to be performed by the authority or any officer thereof,
 19 including the fixing, charging, and collecting of revenues, fees, tolls, fines, and other charges
 20 for the use of the facilities and services furnished.

21 **SECTION 11.**

22 Validation.

23 Revenue bonds and the security therefore shall be confirmed and validated in accordance
 24 with the procedure of the Revenue Bond Law. The petition for validation shall also make
 25 party defendant to such action the state, and any institution, department, or other agency
 26 thereof, and any county, municipality, school district, or other political subdivision or
 27 authority of the state which has contracted with the authority for services or facilities relating
 28 to the project for which revenue bonds are to be issued and sought to be validated, and such
 29 defendant shall be required to show cause, if any exists, why such contract or contracts shall
 30 not be adjudicated as a part of the basis for the security for the payment of any such revenue
 31 bonds. The revenue bonds, when validated, and the judgment of validation shall be final and
 32 conclusive with respect to such revenue bonds and the security for the payment thereof and
 33 interest thereon and against the authority and all other defendants.

SECTION 12.

Venue and jurisdiction.

Any action to protect or enforce any rights under the provisions of this Act or any suit or action against such authority shall be brought in the Superior Court of Lowndes County, Georgia, and any action pertaining to validation of any revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall likewise be brought in said court which shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction of such actions.

SECTION 13.

Interest of bondholders protected.

While any of the revenue bonds issued by the authority remain outstanding, the powers, duties, or existence of said authority or its officers, employees, or agents shall not be diminished or impaired in any manner that will affect adversely the interests and rights of the holders of such revenue bonds, and no other entity, department, agency, or authority will be created which will compete with the authority to such an extent as to affect adversely the interest and rights of the holders of such revenue bonds, nor will the state itself so compete with the authority. The provisions of this Act shall be for the benefit of the authority and the holders of any such revenue bonds, and upon the issuance of such revenue bonds under the provision hereof, shall constitute a contract with the holders of such revenue bonds.

SECTION 14.

Moneys received considered trust funds.

All moneys received pursuant to the authority of this Act, whether as proceeds from the sale of revenue bonds, as grants or other contributions, or as revenue, income, fees, and earnings, shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as provided in this Act.

SECTION 15.

Purpose of the authority.

Without limiting the generality of any provision of this Act, the general purpose of the authority is declared to be that of providing, through acquisition, construction, installation, renovation, expansion, modification, or rehabilitation, any buildings, structures, facilities, improvements, furnishings, fixtures, machinery, equipment, and services for the citizens in the county.

SECTION 16.

Rates, charges, and revenues; use.

The authority is hereby authorized to prescribe and fix rates and to revise same from time to time and to collect revenues, tolls, fees, and charges for the services, facilities, and commodities furnished, and in anticipation of the collection of the revenues, to issue revenue bonds or other types of obligations as herein provided to finance, in whole or in part, the costs of the project, and to pledge to the punctual payment of said revenue bonds or other obligations, all or any part of the revenues.

SECTION 17.

Rules, regulations, service policies, and procedures
for operation of projects.

The authority may prescribe or cause to be prescribed rules, regulations, service policies, and procedures for the operation of any project or projects constructed or acquired or both constructed and acquired under the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 18.

Tort immunity.

To the extent permitted by law, the authority shall have the same immunity and exemption from liability for torts and negligence as the county, and the officers, agents, and employees of the authority, when in the performance of the work of the authority, shall have the same immunity and exemption from liability for torts and negligence as the officers, agents, and employees of the county when in the performance of their public duties or work of the county.

SECTION 19.

Tax exempt status of authority.

It is hereby found, determined, and declared that the creation of the authority and the carrying out of its corporate purposes is in all respects for the benefit of the people of this state and that the authority will be performing an essential governmental function in the exercise of the powers conferred upon it by this Act. For such reasons, the properties of the authority, both real and personal, are declared to be public properties used for the benefit and welfare of the people of the state, and the authority's activities in the operation and

1 maintenance of any such properties and all income derived by the authority therefrom,
2 whether in the form of fees, recording fees, rentals, charges, purchase price payments, or
3 otherwise, shall be exempt from all taxes and assessments of any municipality, county, taxing
4 district, or the state and any political subdivision thereof, including, without limitation, any
5 taxes or assessments with respect to the properties owned by the authority.

6 **SECTION 20.**

7 Effect on other governments.

8 This Act shall not and does not in any way affect the right, power, or authority of any local
9 governmental unit or any other political subdivision or municipality of the state to own,
10 operate, and maintain public facilities or to issue revenue bonds as provided by the Revenue
11 Bond Law.

12 **SECTION 21.**

13 Perpetual existence of authority; dissolution.

14 Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the authority shall have perpetual existence. If the
15 authority does not have outstanding any unpaid revenue bonds, notes, or other indebtedness,
16 the authority may be dissolved by adoption of an appropriate resolution by the governing
17 authority of the county. Upon any such dissolution, all assets, rights, and obligations of the
18 authority shall devolve to the county.

19 **SECTION 22.**

20 Liberal construction of Act.

21 This Act, being for the welfare of various political subdivisions and municipalities of the
22 state and its inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes hereof.

23 **SECTION 23.**

24 Severability; effect of partial invalidity of Act.

25 The provisions of this Act are severable, and if any of its provisions shall be held
26 unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not
27 affect or impair any of the remaining provisions.

