

House Bill 581

By: Representative Butler of the 18th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Bremen, approved December 30,
2 1898 (Ga. L. 1898, p. 136), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 22, 1990
3 (Ga. L. 1990, p. 4406), so as to provide that the Bremen City Board of Education shall have
4 sole authority to set, approve, and amend its budget; to provide taxing authority; to vest title
5 of certain property in the board of education; to provide a joint review committee with the
6 board of education and the city council; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating a new charter for the City of Bremen, approved December 30, 1898
11 (Ga. L. 1898, p. 136), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 22, 1990
12 (Ga. L. 1990, p. 4406), is amended by designating the present text contained in Section 3 as
13 subsection (a) and inserting new subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:
14 "(b) The board of education shall have the sole responsibility and authority to prepare and
15 adopt an annual budget in the same manner as is authorized and required by law for county
16 boards of education.
17 (c) The board of education shall certify annually to the mayor and council of the City of
18 Bremen the rate of the tax levy, not greater than the mills per dollar allowable under the
19 laws and Constitution of the State of Georgia, necessary for the support, maintenance, and
20 operation of the schools in the independent Bremen City School District. The mayor and
21 council shall levy the tax so certified by the board of education upon the assessed value of
22 all taxable property in the incorporated limits of the City of Bremen. For the calendar years
23 2005, 2006, and 2007, the board of education shall not levy school taxes in excess of six
24 mills per dollar based upon a 100 percent valuation of property subject to ad valorem taxes.
25 In the event a financial exigency occurs that requires a levy in excess of six mills per dollar
26 for the calendar years 2005, 2006, and 2007, the city council, upon application by the board

1 of education, may permit, in its discretion, a levy greater than six mills. Beginning with
2 the calendar year 2008 and each year thereafter, the board may levy school taxes in its sole
3 discretion in an amount authorized by general law.

4 (d) The City of Bremen and the Bremen City School District shall enter into an
5 intergovernmental agreement for the purpose of collecting and distributing the ad valorem
6 taxes levied by both the city council and the board of education as is provided by law. The
7 cost for collecting city and school taxes shall be divided by the city and the school district
8 pro rata based on the amount of taxes levied by each governing body.

9 (e) After complying with the procedure for authorization of bonded debt set forth in
10 Georgia law and applicable to public school districts, the Board of Education of the City
11 of Bremen shall have the same power and authority to issue bonds or notes, or both, for
12 capital outlay purposes on the same basis and for the same reasons as county boards of
13 education, provided that the debt that may be created under this subsection shall never
14 exceed any limitations established by the Constitution or laws of the State of Georgia.

15 (f) Title to all property utilized or occupied by the Bremen City School District or the
16 Board of Education of the City of Bremen for school purposes shall be vested in the Board
17 of Education of the City of Bremen and the board of education shall have the power to
18 hold, manage, control, and dispose of such property. Such property consists of the
19 following tracts and improvements thereon: Bremen High School and Middle School
20 campuses consisting of approximately 25 acres; Jones Elementary School campus
21 consisting of approximately 15 acres; the Bremen Board of Education offices located at
22 504 Laurel Street, Bremen; and any other property, real or personal, purchased by the
23 Bremen City Board of Education or its schools, including any property for which the title
24 currently is in the Bremen City Board of Education or School District.

25 (g) The board of education and the city council shall establish a joint committee of such
26 members as the board of education and the city council shall agree. The committee shall
27 meet at least twice annually in order to review the financial status of both governmental
28 agencies, to examine the amount of taxes levied by both agencies and the tax burden on
29 businesses and property owners, to consider tax exceptions and to otherwise review the tax
30 burden on its citizens, and to make appropriate recommendations to the board and council
31 as to these matters."

32 **SECTION 2.**

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