

House Bill 853 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Fleming of the 117<sup>th</sup>, and Burmeister of the 119<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To authorize the governing authority of Columbia County to exercise all redevelopment and  
2 other powers under Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VII of the Constitution and Chapter 44  
3 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Redevelopment Powers Law," as amended; to provide for  
4 a referendum; to provide effective dates; to provide for automatic repeal under certain  
5 circumstances; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The governing authority of Columbia County shall be and is authorized to exercise all  
9 redevelopment and other powers under Chapter 44 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the  
10 "Redevelopment Powers Law," as amended. The intention of this Act is to authorize the  
11 governing authority of Columbia County to undertake and carry out community  
12 redevelopment, to create tax allocation districts, to issue tax allocation bonds, and to incur  
13 other obligations within the meaning of and as fully permitted under the provisions of Article  
14 IX, Section II, Paragraph VII of the Constitution of the State of Georgia of 1983, as  
15 amended, and to authorize the governing authority of Columbia County to exercise  
16 redevelopment powers as fully as the "Redevelopment Powers Law" may now or hereafter  
17 permit, and not to limit any redevelopment powers permitted under the "Redevelopment  
18 Powers Law."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Unless prohibited by the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the election  
21 superintendent of the governing authority of Columbia County shall call and conduct an  
22 election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of  
23 Columbia County for approval or rejection. The election superintendent shall conduct that  
24 election on the earliest date therefor permissible under Code Section 21-2-540 of the  
25 O.C.G.A. and shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The

1 superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week  
2 for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Columbia  
3 County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

4 "( ) YES Shall the Act be approved which authorizes the governing authority of  
5 Columbia County to exercise redevelopment powers under the  
6 ( ) NO 'Redevelopment Powers Law,' as it may be amended from time to time?"

7 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring  
8 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on  
9 such question are for approval of the Act, then Section 1 of this Act shall become of full  
10 force and effect immediately. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted  
11 as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective and this Act shall  
12 be automatically repealed on the first day of January immediately following that election  
13 date. The expense of such election shall be borne by Columbia County. It shall be the  
14 election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

15 **SECTION 3.**

16 Except as otherwise provided in Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon  
17 its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

18 **SECTION 4.**

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