

House Bill 1083

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118th, Burmeister of the 119th, and Fleming of the 117th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 15 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Georgia Medical Center Authority, so as to change the definition of projects of the authority;
3 to change certain purposes of the authority and to provide for additional purposes; to provide
4 for an exemption from certain sales and use taxation; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 15 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
9 Medical Center Authority, is amended by striking paragraph (3) of Code Section 20-15-2,
10 relating to definitions regarding the authority, and inserting in its place a new paragraph (3)
11 to read as follows:

12 "(3) 'Project' means and includes one or any combination of the following: biomedical
13 and biotechnical research centers, facilities, and programs based in ~~Augusta, Georgia,~~ the
14 State of Georgia to include office space, laboratories, treatment centers, and other related
15 buildings, structures, equipment, as well as associated facilities such as parking facilities
16 and common areas; and improvements of every kind and character deemed by the
17 authority necessary or convenient for its purposes."

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 20-15-4, relating to purposes of the
20 authority, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 20-15-4 to read as follows:

21 "20-15-4.

22 The corporate purpose and the general nature of the business of the authority shall be:

23 (1) The provision of biomedical and biotechnical research centers, facilities, and
24 programs based in ~~Augusta, Georgia,~~ the State of Georgia in cooperation with the board
25 of regents;

- 1 (2) The commercialization of biomedical and biotechnical research results;
- 2 (3) The promotion of closer ties between academic institutions of the state and the
- 3 biomedical industry so as to capitalize on present and future state intellectual resources;
- 4 ~~(4) The generation of sustained research funding in the form of revenues from licensed~~
- 5 ~~and commercialized intellectual property with excess revenues reinvested in biomedical~~
- 6 ~~research infrastructure and programs;~~
- 7 ~~(5) The promotion of continuing investment in the intellectual capacity of the Medical~~
- 8 ~~College of Georgia by cooperating with the board of regents in the retention and~~
- 9 ~~recruitment of clinical faculty; and~~
- 10 (4) The facilitation of the development of a biosciences industrial cluster in the State of
- 11 Georgia through strategic partnerships as they relate to innovation, commercialization,
- 12 acquisition, and recruitment programs; and
- 13 ~~(6)~~(5) The advancement of local and state economic growth.

14 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to conflict with the powers and authority of the

15 board of regents over its institutions."

16 SECTION 3.

17 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 20-15-6, relating to public purposes

18 and tax exemptions of the authority, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 20-15-6

19 to read as follows:

20 "20-15-6.

21 It is found, determined, and declared that the creation of the authority and the carrying out

22 of its corporate purposes are in all respects for the benefit of the people of this state and

23 constitute a public purpose and that the authority will be performing an essential

24 governmental function in the exercise of the powers conferred upon it by this chapter. The

25 State of Georgia covenants that the authority shall be required to pay no taxes or

26 assessments upon any of the property acquired by it or under its jurisdiction, control,

27 possession, or supervision or upon its activities in the operation or maintenance of the

28 facilities erected, maintained, or acquired by it or any fees, rentals, or other charges for the

29 use of such facilities or other income received by the authority; provided, however, that in

30 no event shall the exemptions granted in this Code section extend to any lessee or other

31 private person or entity. The exemption from taxation provided for in this Code section

32 shall include exemptions from sales and use taxes on property purchased by the authority

33 or for use by the authority."

34 SECTION 4.

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