

Senate Bill 515

By: Senator Bulloch of the 11th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Georgia Seed Development Commission, so as to change certain provisions relating to the
3 Georgia Seed Development Commission and its composition, officers, bylaws, quorum,
4 compensation, records, audits, and bonds; to change certain provisions relating to the
5 creation of an advisory board and its members and functions; to change certain provisions
6 relating to terms of office; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 4 of Title 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Seed
10 Development Commission, is amended by revising Code Section 2-4-3, relating to the
11 Georgia Seed Development Commission and its composition, officers, bylaws, quorum,
12 compensation, records, audits, and bonds, as follows:

13 "2-4-3.

14 (a) The commission shall be composed of the following ~~ten~~ 11 members:

15 ~~(1) The Lieutenant Governor;~~

16 ~~(2) The Commissioner of Agriculture;~~

17 ~~(3) An appointee of the Governor who is not the Attorney General;~~

18 ~~(4) The dean and coordinator of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences~~
19 ~~of the University of Georgia;~~

20 ~~(5) The director of experiment stations of the College of Agricultural and Environmental~~
21 ~~Sciences of the University of Georgia;~~

22 ~~(6) The president of Foundation Seeds, Incorporated; and~~

23 ~~(7) Four members who are farmers, to be appointed as follows:~~

24 ~~(A) One member to be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture;~~

25 ~~(B) One member to be appointed by the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation;~~

26 ~~(C) One member to be appointed by the Georgia Seedmen's Association; and~~

1 ~~(D) One member to be appointed by Foundation Seeds, Incorporated.~~

2 (1) Two members to be appointed by the Governor, each of whom shall be a farmer who
3 grows crops for seed or grows turf;

4 (2) One member who shall be a farmer who grows crops for seed or grows turf, to be
5 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

6 (3) One member who shall be a farmer who grows crops for seed or grows turf, to be
7 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

8 (4) The Commissioner of Agriculture;

9 (5) Two representatives of the seed or turf industries or farm related organizations, one
10 of whom shall be appointed by the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee,
11 and one of whom shall be appointed by the House Committee on Agriculture and
12 Consumer Affairs. Each committee shall make its appointment with a quorum present
13 and a majority of those present concurring;

14 (6) One officer or employee of the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc., to
15 be appointed by the president of the University of Georgia;

16 (7) The dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the
17 University of Georgia;

18 (8) A seed breeder employed by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
19 of the University of Georgia, to be appointed by the dean of the College of Agricultural
20 and Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia; and

21 (9) The associate dean for research of the College of Agricultural and Environmental
22 Sciences of the University of Georgia.

23 (b) The members of the commission shall enter upon their duties without further act or
24 formality. The commission shall organize each even-numbered year at the meeting next
25 following July 1 of such year, at which time the commission shall elect one of its members
26 as ~~chairman~~ chairperson and another as ~~vice-chairman~~ vice chairperson. It shall also elect
27 a secretary and a treasurer, who need not be members. The offices of secretary and
28 treasurer may be combined in one person. The commission may make such bylaws for its
29 government as ~~deemed~~ it deems necessary but is under no duty to do so.

30 (c) Six members of the commission shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction
31 of business, and a majority vote of those present at any meeting at which there is a quorum
32 shall be sufficient to do and perform any action permitted the commission by this chapter.
33 No vacancy on the commission shall impair the right of a quorum to transact any and all
34 business of the commission.

35 (d) The members shall not receive compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed
36 for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

1 (e) Members of the commission shall be accountable as trustees. They shall cause
 2 adequate books and records of all transactions of the commission, including records of
 3 income and disbursements of every nature, to be kept. The books and records shall be
 4 inspected and audited by the state auditor at least once in each year. The commission may
 5 require that an employee, an officer, member of the commission, or any person doing
 6 business with the commission post a bond, in an amount to be determined by the
 7 commission, for the faithful performance of the duties imposed upon such employee,
 8 officer, member of the commission, or person doing business with the commission. The
 9 principal of such bond of an officer, employee, or member of the commission shall be paid
 10 by the commission."

11 SECTION 2.

12 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 2-4-7, relating to the creation of
 13 an advisory board and its members and functions, as follows:

14 "2-4-7.

15 ~~(a) There is created~~ The commission may appoint an advisory board, consisting of such
 16 number and qualifications of members as the commission may determine, to advise and
 17 consult with the commission in the performance of its the commission's duties. ~~The~~
 18 ~~advisory board shall consist of the following 13 members:~~

19 ~~(1) The Commissioner of Agriculture;~~

20 ~~(2) The dean and coordinator of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences~~
 21 ~~of the University of Georgia;~~

22 ~~(3) The director of the experiment stations of the College of Agricultural and~~
 23 ~~Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia;~~

24 ~~(4) The director of the Cooperative Extension Service;~~

25 ~~(5) The president of the Georgia Crop Improvement Association, Inc.;~~

26 ~~(6) The president of the Georgia Seedmen's Association;~~

27 ~~(7) The president of the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation;~~

28 ~~(8) The chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the Senate or some person designated~~
 29 ~~by him;~~

30 ~~(9) The chairman of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee of the House of~~
 31 ~~Representatives or some person designated by him; and~~

32 ~~(10) Four members who are farmers, to be appointed as follows:~~

33 ~~(A) One member to be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture;~~

34 ~~(B) One member to be appointed by the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation;~~

35 ~~(C) One member to be appointed by the Georgia Seedmen's Association; and~~

36 ~~(D) One member to be appointed by Foundation Seeds, Incorporated.~~

1 (b) The function of ~~the~~ such a board shall be advisory only."

2 **SECTION 3.**

3 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 2-4-8, relating to terms of office,
4 as follows:

5 "2-4-8.

6 The appointive members of the commission shall serve for terms of two years each
7 commencing on July 1 of each even-numbered year; and the appointive members of the
8 advisory board, if any, shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~appointing officer or entity~~
9 commission."

10 **SECTION 4.**

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