

House Bill 1463

By: Representatives Howard of the 121st, Murphy of the 120th, and Frazier of the 123rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Augusta-Richmond County Coliseum Authority, approved
2 April 17, 1973 (Ga. L. 1973, p. 3042), as amended, particularly by an Act approved
3 March 23, 1977 (Ga. L. 1977, p. 3300), and an Act approved March 16, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993,
4 p. 4087), so as to change the name of the authority; to change the membership of the
5 authority; to provide for the terms and appointment of members of the authority; to provide
6 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating the Augusta-Richmond County Coliseum Authority, approved April 17,
10 1973 (Ga. L. 1973, p. 3042), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 23, 1977
11 (Ga. L. 1977, p. 3300), and an Act approved March 16, 1993 (Ga. L. 1993, p. 4087), is
12 amended by striking Section 2 and inserting in its place a new Section 2 to read as follows:

13 "SECTION 2.

14 (a) There is created a body corporate and politic to be known as the Augusta Entertainment
15 Authority, which shall be a successor to the Augusta-Richmond County Coliseum
16 Authority, and which shall be deemed to be a political subdivision of the State of Georgia
17 and a public corporation and by that name, style, and title said body may contract and be
18 contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain and defend in
19 all courts of law and equity. Effective on and after July 1, 2008, the authority shall consist
20 of nine members to be appointed as follows:

- 21 (1) Six members shall be appointed by the Augusta-Richmond County Commission, with
22 the five commissioners of Super District 9 entitled to appoint three members and the five
23 commissioners of Super District 10 entitled to appoint three members;
- 24 (2) One of the appointees from Super District 9 shall have a background in marketing;

1 (3) One of the appointees from Super District 10 shall have a background in business
2 administration and management;

3 (4) Three members shall be appointed by the legislative delegation which shall consist
4 of all members of the General Assembly representing all or a portion of Richmond
5 County; and

6 (5) One of the appointees from the legislative delegation shall have a background in
7 business finance.

8 In order to be qualified to serve on the authority an appointee shall be a resident of
9 Richmond County and should have experience in one or more of the following fields:
10 business administration and management, business finance, the food services industry, the
11 entertainment industry, advertising, marketing, or other related field.

12 (b) On or after June 1, 2008, the initial appointees of the county commission shall serve
13 a term concurrent with the Super District commissioner from the Super District that made
14 the appointment. Subsequent appointees of the county commission shall serve two-year
15 terms. The appointees of the legislative delegation shall serve two-year terms, except as
16 otherwise specified in subsection (e) of this section. In order for an appointee of a county
17 commissioner to be removed from the authority, seven members of the county commission,
18 without the necessity of a showing of cause, must vote for the removal of the appointee.

19 (c) The members of the authority in office on June 30, 2008, shall not serve until the
20 regular expiration of the terms to which such members were appointed and the terms of
21 such members shall expire on midnight of June 30, 2008. No member of the authority who
22 has held office at any time in the six months prior to the effective date of this Act shall be
23 eligible for appointment to the initial board created under the provisions of this Act.

24 (d) As soon as practicable on or after June 1, 2008, the Augusta-Richmond County
25 Commission shall appoint such members provided for in this section for initial terms
26 beginning on July 1, 2008, to replace the previously appointed members. All appointees
27 to the authority shall serve until their respective successors are appointed and qualified.
28 Members of the authority shall be allowed to succeed themselves and be reappointed.

29 (e) As soon as practicable on or after June 1, 2008, the legislative delegation shall appoint
30 such members provided for in this section for initial terms beginning on July 1, 2008, and
31 ending on December 31, 2010, or until their respective successors are appointed and
32 qualified.

33 (f) Immediately after their appointment, the members of the Augusta Entertainment
34 Authority shall enter upon their duties. They shall all attend an orientation and training
35 course approved by the Augusta-Richmond County Commission. They shall elect one of
36 their number as chairperson, another as vice chairperson, and may also elect a secretary and
37 treasurer who need not necessarily be a member of the Augusta Entertainment Authority.

1 The chairperson and vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer shall serve for a period of one
2 year and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Six members of the Augusta
3 Entertainment Authority shall constitute a quorum. The chairperson shall be a nonvoting
4 member of the authority, except he or she may vote to break a tie vote by the other
5 members. The chairperson shall form committees and appoint members thereto as he or
6 she deems necessary.

7 (g) As soon as practicable after July 1, 2008, the members of the Augusta Entertainment
8 Authority shall cause to be published a manual governing the acceptable business practices
9 and management techniques to be followed by all members during their service on the
10 Authority. This manual shall also include a statement of the purpose of the Augusta
11 Entertainment Authority and a statement of the vision for the future of the Authority.

12 (h) In the event of a vacancy by reason of death, disqualification, removal, resignation, or
13 other reason, the governing body which appointed such member shall appoint a person to
14 serve the remainder of the term of such member. No vacancy on the Augusta
15 Entertainment Authority shall impair the right of the quorum to exercise all their rights and
16 to perform all of the duties of the Authority.

17 (i) The members of the Augusta Entertainment Authority shall serve without compensation
18 provided that all members shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses necessarily
19 incurred in the performance of their duties. The Authority shall make rules and regulations
20 governing the procedures to be followed in conducting the business of the Authority. It
21 shall have perpetual existence."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
24 without such approval.

25 **SECTION 3.**

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