

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee offered the following substitute to HB 1329:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To create the Bryan County Water and Sewer Authority; to provide a short title; to provide
2 for definitions; to provide for the appointment of members of the board; to provide for
3 organization and rules; to provide for powers and duties; to provide for financing of projects;
4 to provide for revenue bonds; to provide for trust indentures and sinking funds; to provide
5 for jurisdiction, venue, and remedies; to provide for validation; to provide for certain trust
6 funds; to provide for audits; to provide for immunity; to provide for rules and regulations;
7 to provide for construction; to provide for supplemental powers; to provide for other related
8 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Short title.

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Bryan County Water and Sewer Authority
11 Act."
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13

SECTION 2.

Creation of the authority; membership.

14 (a) There is created a body corporate and politic, to be known as the Bryan County Water
15 and Sewer Authority, which shall be deemed to be a political subdivision of the State of
16 Georgia and a public corporation and by that name, style, and title said body may contract
17 and be contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain and defend
18 in all courts of law and equity, except that the authority or the trustee acting under any trust
19 indenture shall in no event be liable for any torts committed by its officers, agents, or
20 employees.
21

22 (b) The authority shall consist of six members. The board of commissioners of Bryan
23 County shall appoint the members of the authority, each of whom shall reside in Bryan
24 County. Two of the six members shall be incumbent members of the Board of
25

1 Commissioners. The board of commissioners of Bryan County shall appoint two of the
2 initial members for initial terms of three years, appoint two of the initial members for initial
3 terms of two years, and appoint two of the initial members for initial terms of one year.
4 Subsequent appointments shall be made for terms of office of three years. Vacancies shall
5 be filled for an unexpired term by the board of commissioners of Bryan County.

6 (c) The authority shall elect from its members a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a secretary,
7 and a treasurer or a secretary-treasurer. All officers shall be voting members. The members
8 of the authority shall serve without compensation; however, they shall be reimbursed for all
9 actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The authority shall make rules
10 and regulations for its own government. It shall have perpetual existence.

11 (d) Any authority member who is convicted of a felony shall be removed from the authority
12 upon the date of conviction, regardless of the status of any appeal.

13 (e) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum, and any action may be taken by
14 the authority upon the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the members. No
15 vacancy on the authority shall impair the right of the quorum to exercise all of the rights and
16 perform all of the duties of the authority. The authority shall be subject to all the provisions
17 of Chapters 14 and 18 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., the open meetings and open records laws
18 of the State of Georgia.

19 SECTION 3.

20 Definitions.

21 (a) "Authority" means the Bryan County Water and Sewer Authority created by Section 2
22 of this Act.

23 (b) "Cost of the project" means the cost of construction, the cost of all lands, properties,
24 rights, easements, and franchises acquired; the cost of all machinery and equipment,
25 financing charges, interest prior to and during construction and for one year after completion
26 of construction; cost of engineering, architectural, fiscal, and legal expenses and of plans and
27 specifications and of any other expenses necessary or incidental to determining the feasibility
28 or practicability of the project; administrative expenses and such other expenses as may be
29 necessary or incident to the financing authorized by this Act; the cost of the construction of
30 any project, the placing of the same in operation, and the condemnation of property necessary
31 for each construction and operation. Any obligation or expense incurred for any of the
32 foregoing purposes shall be regarded as a part of the cost of the project and may be paid or
33 reimbursed as such out of the proceeds of revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this
34 Act for such project.

35 (c) "Project" means the acquisition, construction, and equipping of water facilities for
36 obtaining one or more sources of water supply, small watershed projects, works of

1 improvements for watersheds, projects for watershed protection and flood control and
 2 prevention, recreational facilities developed in connection therewith, the treatment of water,
 3 and the distribution and sale of water to users and consumers including, but not limited to,
 4 the State of Georgia and counties and municipalities for the purpose of resale inside and
 5 outside the territorial boundaries of Bryan County. The term "project" shall also include
 6 additions to, improvements to, extensions of, and the operation and maintenance of the same
 7 so as to assure an adequate water system, watershed protection and improvement, and flood
 8 control and prevention; the acquisition, construction, and equipping of sewerage facilities
 9 useful and necessary for the gathering of waste matter, and the treatment of sewage of any
 10 and every type, including, but not limited to, the acquisition and construction of treatment
 11 plants, ponds, and lagoons inside and outside the territorial boundaries of Bryan County; and
 12 additions and improvements to and extensions of such facilities and the operation and
 13 maintenance of the same so as to assure an adequate sewerage system. Said water facilities,
 14 small watershed projects, projects for watershed protection and flood control and prevention,
 15 recreational facilities developed in connection therewith, and sewerage facilities, at the
 16 discretion of the authority, may be combined at any time as one revenue-producing
 17 undertaking and operated and maintained as such.

18 (d) "Revenue bonds," "bonds," or "obligations" mean revenue bonds as defined and provided
 19 for in Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law." Such
 20 bonds and obligations may be issued by the authority as authorized under the "Revenue Bond
 21 Law" and any amendments thereto. Such terms shall also mean obligations of the authority
 22 the issuance of which are specifically provided for in this Act.

23 (e) "Self-liquidating" means that the revenues and earnings to be derived by the authority
 24 therefrom and all properties used, leased, and sold in connection therewith will be sufficient
 25 to pay the cost of operating, maintaining, repairing, improving, and extending the project and
 26 to pay the principal and interest of the revenue bonds which may be issued for the cost of
 27 such project or projects.

28 **SECTION 4.**

29 Powers.

30 The authority shall have the following powers:

- 31 (a) To have a seal and alter the same at its pleasure;
- 32 (b) To acquire by purchase, lease, gift, or otherwise, and to hold, operate, lease, maintain,
 33 and dispose of real and personal property of every kind and character for its corporate
 34 purposes;
- 35 (c) To acquire in its own name by purchase, on such terms and conditions and in such
 36 manner as it may deem proper, real property or rights of easements therein or franchises

1 necessary or convenient for its corporate purposes; to use the same so long as its corporate
2 existence shall continue; and to lease or make contracts with respect to the use of or dispose
3 of the same in any manner it deems to the best advantage of the authority. No property shall
4 be acquired under the provisions of this Act upon which any lien or encumbrance exists,
5 unless at the time such property is so acquired a sufficient sum of money is deposited in trust
6 to pay and redeem the fair value of such lien or encumbrance. If the authority shall deem it
7 expedient to construct any project on any lands the title to which shall then be in Bryan
8 County or in any municipality incorporated in said county, the governing authority or body
9 of said county or of any of said municipalities, if such governing authority consents thereto,
10 is authorized to convey title to such lands to the authority upon payment for the credit of the
11 general funds of said county or municipalities the reasonable value of such lands;

12 (d) To enter into an agreement with the governing authority of Bryan County and any
13 municipalities therein, with respect to acquiring a source of water supply; providing
14 sewerage service; preparing engineering data, plans, and specifications for a water and
15 sewerage system; extending water mains; apportioning the costs of constructing, extending,
16 and maintaining a water or sewerage system, or both; providing for the testing and inspection
17 of facilities constructed; providing for rates to be charged for water and sewerage services
18 and keeping of permanent records; apportioning or designating the responsibility for any
19 functions normally maintained by a water and sewerage system; providing for the ownership
20 of the various facilities constructed or acquired; and providing for such other matters or
21 contingencies as might be necessary or desirable in order to secure for Bryan County a
22 satisfactory and reliable water and sewerage system at the most reasonable cost possible;

23 (e) To appoint, select, and employ such officers, agents, and employees as necessary in the
24 judgment of the authority to accomplish the purposes of the authority. Such officers, agents,
25 and employees may include engineering, architectural, and construction experts, fiscal
26 agents, and attorneys, and the authority has the power to fix their respective compensation.
27 The authority may require bond of any person handling funds of the authority;

28 (f) To make and execute contracts, leases, and instruments, which shall be necessary or
29 convenient, including contracts for acquisition and construction of projects and leases of
30 projects or contracts with respect to the use of projects which it causes to be constructed or
31 acquired. Any and all persons, firms, and corporations and any and all consolidated
32 governments, political subdivisions, departments, institutions, or agencies of the state are
33 authorized to enter into contracts, leases, or agreements with the authority upon such terms
34 and for such purposes as they deem advisable. Without limiting the generality of the
35 foregoing provisions of this subsection, authorization is specifically granted to consolidated
36 governments, municipal corporations, and counties and to the authority to enter into
37 contracts, lease agreements, or other undertakings relative to the furnishing of water or

1 sewerage service and facilities, or both, by the authority to such consolidated governments,
2 municipal corporations, and counties for a term not exceeding 50 years. As to any
3 consolidated government, political subdivision, department, institution, or agency of this
4 state which shall enter into an agreement under the provisions of this subsection or in
5 subsection (d) of this section, the obligation to perform and fulfill such agreement shall
6 constitute a general obligation of such entity for which its full faith and credit shall be
7 pledged;

8 (g) To construct, erect, acquire, own, repair, remodel, maintain, add to, extend, improve,
9 equip, operate, and manage water and sewerage systems; with the cost of such systems to be
10 paid in whole or in part from the proceeds of revenue bonds of the authority or from such
11 proceeds and any grant from the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality
12 thereof or from the State of Georgia or any agency or instrumentality thereof;

13 (h) To accept loans and grants of money or materials or property of any kind from the
14 United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, upon such terms and
15 conditions as the United States of America or such agency or instrumentality may impose;

16 (i) To accept loans and grants of money or materials or property of any kind from the State
17 of Georgia or any agency or instrumentality or political subdivision thereof, upon such terms
18 and conditions as the States of Georgia or such agency or instrumentality or political
19 subdivision may impose;

20 (j) To borrow money for any of its corporate purposes and to execute notes or other
21 evidences of such indebtedness and to secure the same;

22 (k) To issue negotiable revenue bonds, payable solely from funds pledged for the purpose,
23 and to provide for the payment of the same and for rights of the holders thereof;

24 (l) The authority and any trustee acting under any trust indenture are specifically authorized
25 to sell, lease, grant, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any such surplus property, both real
26 and personal, or interest therein not required in the normal operation of and usable in the
27 furtherance of the purpose for which the authority was created, except as such right and
28 power might be limited as provided elsewhere in this Act;

29 (m) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the authority may exercise any of its powers
30 or provide any of its services inside the service delivery boundaries of any local government
31 within Bryan County when authorized by contract with the governing authority thereof;

32 (n) To make and enforce rules and regulations for the management and operation of the
33 publicly owned water and sewerage systems which now exist and as hereafter added to,
34 extended, or improved by any project or projects constructed after the provisions of this Act;

35 (o) To prescribe, fix, and collect rates, fees, tolls, or charges of the authority and to revise
36 from time to time and collect such rates, fees, tolls or charges for the services, facilities, or
37 commodities furnished; and in anticipation of the collection of the revenues and income of

1 such undertakings or projects, to issue revenue bonds as provided in this Act to finance in
2 whole or in part the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, betterment, or
3 extension of the water and sewerage systems, a small watershed project, a project for
4 watershed protection or flood control and prevention, or recreational facilities developed in
5 connection therewith; and to pledge to the punctual payment of the bonds and interest
6 thereon all or any part of the revenues of such undertaking or project, including the revenues
7 of improvements, betterments, or extensions thereto; and to classify and differentiate such
8 rates, fees, tolls, or charges in any reasonable manner, including, but not limited to, small,
9 intermediate, and large consumers and industrial, commercial, and residential consumers and,
10 with respect to sewer rates, according to the amount of suspended solids and the biological
11 oxygen demand of sewerage users. Additionally, and not in limitation of any of the
12 foregoing, the authority, in fixing water or sewerage rates, or both, shall be fully authorized
13 and empowered to comply with any state or federal Acts and any lawful regulations adopted
14 pursuant to any such Act. As a limitation of the power of the authority, however, if at any
15 time there are issued and outstanding revenue bonds for the payment of which the revenues
16 of the authority are pledged, the authority shall make no decrease in rates for water and sewer
17 service which will in any way impair the obligations contained in the revenue bonds;

18 (p) To adopt rules and regulations providing for the suspension of service to delinquent
19 customers. The authority, through its executive director, or such other employees as the
20 authority designates, shall have the right and power to issue executions for any past due
21 charges, which executions shall be a lien upon and against the land and other properties of
22 the assessed party which lien shall be of equal priority, rank, and dignity having the same
23 attributes, rights, and powers as to collection and foreclosure thereof as an execution for
24 unpaid ad valorem taxes of the State of Georgia or the County of Bryan; provided, however,
25 that no such lien shall exist as to third parties until execution therefor shall have been issued
26 by the Superior Court of Bryan County. In the event that sewerage service is discontinued
27 pursuant to this section, the appropriate health authorities shall be immediately notified;

28 (q) To acquire insurance for its property; its authority members, and its officers and
29 employees, including but not limited to fire, wind, storm, extended coverage insurance, and
30 vehicular liability insurance; all other types of liability insurance; casualty insurance, fidelity
31 insurance, comprehensive insurance, public officials' liability insurance, general public
32 liability insurance covering all hazards, group life insurance, group accident insurance, group
33 health insurance, group hospitalization insurance, group medical insurance, or any
34 combination thereof; together with any and all other types of insurance on its property,
35 officers, authority members, and employees as the authority in its judgment and discretion
36 deems meet and proper in the conduct of its business; and on such terms and conditions and
37 in such amounts as the authority deems appropriate in its judgment and discretion; and with

1 the payment of premiums and charges therefor; together with any other costs incident thereto,
 2 to be paid in whole or in part by the authority and out of the general funds of the authority
 3 as the authority may determine;

4 (r) To purchase, install, construct, repair, and replace fire hydrants on public property,
 5 together with all needful and necessary accessories and adjuncts thereto, in connection with
 6 existing or new water lines or mains of the authority and to defray and pay for any part or all
 7 of the cost and expense thereof, labor, material, and otherwise, utilizing any available funds
 8 of the authority therefor;

9 (s) To exercise any power usually possessed by private corporations performing similar
 10 functions, including the power to incur short-term debt and to approve, execute, and deliver
 11 appropriate evidence of any such indebtedness, provided that such power is not in conflict
 12 with the Constitution and laws of this state; and

13 (t) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly given in this
 14 Act.

15 SECTION 5.

16 Financing Powers.

17 The authority, or any authority or body which has or which may in the future succeed to the
 18 powers, duties, and liabilities vested in the authority created in this Act, shall have power and
 19 is authorized to borrow money for the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of the
 20 project, as defined in this Act, of any one or more projects and to provide by resolution for
 21 the issuance of negotiable revenue bonds for that purpose. The principal and interest of such
 22 revenue bonds shall be payable solely from the special fund provided in this section for such
 23 payment. The bonds of each issue shall be dated, shall bear interest at such rate or rates not
 24 to exceed the maximum bond limit prescribed in Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the
 25 "Revenue Bond Law," as now or hereafter amended, shall be payable semiannually, and shall
 26 be payable in such medium of payment as to both principal and interest as may be
 27 determined by the authority and may be made redeemable before maturity, at the option of
 28 the authority, at such price or prices and under such terms and conditions as may be fixed by
 29 the authority in the resolution providing for the issuance of the bonds.

30 SECTION 6.

31 Revenue bonds; form; denominations; registration; place of payment.

32 The authority shall determine the form of the bonds, including any interest coupons to be
 33 attached thereto, and shall fix the denomination or denominations of the bonds and the place
 34 or places of payment of principal and interest thereof, which may be at any bank or trust
 35 company inside or outside the state. The bonds may be issued in coupon or registered form,

1 or both, as the authority may determine, and provision may be made for the registration of
2 any coupon bond as to principal alone and also as to both the principal and interest.

3 **SECTION 7.**

4 Revenue bonds; signatures; seal.

5 All such bonds shall bear the manual or facsimile signature of the chairperson of the
6 authority and the attesting manual or facsimile signature of the secretary of the authority, and
7 the official seal of the authority or a facsimile thereof shall be affixed thereto and any
8 coupons attached thereto shall bear the facsimile signatures of the chairperson and the
9 secretary of the authority. Any coupon may bear the facsimile signatures of such persons and
10 any bond may be signed, sealed, and attested on behalf of the authority by such person as at
11 the actual time of the execution of such bonds shall be duly authorized or hold the proper
12 office, although at the date of such bonds such person may not have been so authorized or
13 shall not have held such office. In case any officer whose signature shall appear on any
14 bonds or whose signature shall appear on any coupon shall cease to be such officer before
15 delivery of such bonds, such signature shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all
16 purposes the same as if such officer had remained in office until such delivery.

17 **SECTION 8.**

18 Revenue bonds; negotiability; exemption from taxation.

19 All revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall have and are declared to have
20 all the qualities and incidents of negotiable instruments under the laws of this state. Such
21 bonds are declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose and said
22 bonds and the income therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation within the state.

23 **SECTION 9.**

24 Revenue bonds; sale; price.

25 The authority may sell such bonds in such manner and for such price as it may determine to
26 be for the best interests of the authority.

27 **SECTION 10.**

28 Revenue bonds; proceeds of bonds.

29 The proceeds of such bonds shall be used solely for the payment of the costs of the project
30 or projects, and unless otherwise provided in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the
31 bonds or in any trust indenture, additional bonds may in like manner be issued to provide the
32 amount of any deficit which, unless otherwise provided for in the resolution authorizing the
33 issuance of the bonds or in any trust indenture, shall be deemed to be of the same issue and

1 shall be entitled to payment from the same fund without preference or priority of the bonds
 2 first issued for the same purpose. If the proceeds of the bonds of any issue shall exceed the
 3 amount required for the purpose for which such bonds are issued, the surplus shall be paid
 4 into the fund provided for in this Act to be used for paying the principal of and the interest
 5 on such bonds.

6 **SECTION 11.**

7 Revenue bonds; interim receipts and certificates or temporary bonds.

8 Prior to the preparation of definitive bonds, the authority may, under like restrictions, issue
 9 interim receipts, interim certificates, or temporary bonds, with or without coupons,
 10 exchangeable for definite bonds upon the issuance of the latter.

11 **SECTION 12.**

12 Revenue bonds; replacement of lost or mutilated bonds.

13 The authority may also provide for the replacement of any bond which shall become
 14 mutilated or be destroyed or lost.

15 **SECTION 13.**

16 Revenue bonds; conditions precedent to issue; object of issue.

17 Such revenue bonds may be issued without any other proceedings or the happening of any
 18 other conditions or things than those proceedings, conditions, and things which are specified
 19 or required by this Act. In the discretion of the authority, revenue bonds of a single issue
 20 may be issued for the purpose of any particular project. Any resolution providing for the
 21 issuance of revenue bonds under the provisions of this Act shall become effective
 22 immediately upon its passage and need not be published or posted, and any such resolutions
 23 may be passed at any regular, special, or adjourned meeting of the authority by a majority
 24 of the quorum as provided in this Act.

25 **SECTION 14.**

26 Revenue bonds; credit not pledged; special power of contract.

27 Revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall not be deemed to constitute a
 28 debt of Bryan County or a pledge of the faith and credit of the county, but the bonds shall be
 29 payable solely from the fund provided for in this Act, and the issuance of such revenue bonds
 30 shall not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the county to levy or to pledge any form
 31 of taxation whatever therefor or to make any appropriation for their payment, and all such
 32 bonds shall contain recitals on their face covering substantially the foregoing provisions of
 33 this section; provided, however, that the governing authority of Bryan County is authorized

1 to contract with the authority for any of the undertakings authorized in this Act. Such county
2 may in connection therewith, jointly or severally, use any funds from any lawful source or
3 from the proceeds of the issue and sale of bonds for such purpose.

4 **SECTION 15.**

5 Revenue bonds; trust indenture as security.

6 In the discretion of the authority, any issue of such revenue bonds may be secured by a trust
7 indenture by and between the authority and a corporate trustee, which may be any trust
8 company or bank having the powers of a trust company inside or outside this state. Such
9 trust indenture may pledge or assign fees, tolls, revenues, and earnings to be received by the
10 authority. Either the resolution providing for the issuance of the revenue bonds or such trust
11 indenture may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies
12 of the bondholders as may be reasonable and proper and not in violation of law, including
13 covenants setting forth the duties of the authority in relation to the acquisition of property;
14 the construction of the project; the maintenance, operation, repair, and insurance of the
15 project; and the custody, safeguarding, and application of all moneys, and may also provide
16 that any project shall be constructed and paid for under the supervision and approval of
17 consulting engineers or architects employed or designated by the authority and may also
18 contain provisions concerning the conditions, if any, upon which additional revenue bonds
19 may be issued. It shall be lawful for any bank or trust company incorporated under the laws
20 of this state to act as such depository and to furnish such indemnifying bonds or pledge such
21 securities as may be required by the authority. Such indenture may set forth the rights and
22 remedies of the bondholders and of the trustee and may restrict the individual right of action
23 of bondholders as is customary in trust indentures securing bonds and debentures of
24 corporations. In addition to the foregoing, such trust indenture may contain such other
25 provisions as the authority may deem reasonable and proper for the security of bondholders.
26 All expenses incurred in carrying out such trust indenture may be treated as a part of the cost
27 of maintenance, operation, and repair of the project affected by such indenture.

28 **SECTION 16.**

29 Revenue bonds; to whom proceeds of bonds shall be paid.

30 The authority shall, in the resolution providing for the issuance of revenue bonds or in any
31 trust indenture, provide for the payment of the proceeds of the sale of the bonds to any officer
32 or person or any agency, bank, or trust company acting as trustee of such funds and shall
33 hold and apply the same to the purposes provided for in this Act, subject to such regulations
34 as this Act and such resolution or trust indenture may provide.

SECTION 17.

Revenue bonds; sinking fund.

The revenues, fees, tolls, charges, and earnings derived from any particular project or projects, regardless of whether or not such fees, tolls, charges, earnings, and revenues were produced by a particular project for which bonds have been issued unless otherwise pledged and allocated, may be pledged and allocated by the authority to the payment of the principal and interest on revenue bonds of the authority as the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or in the trust instrument may provide. Such funds so pledged from whatever source received, which pledge may include funds received from one or more or all sources, shall be set aside at regular intervals as may be provided in the resolution or trust indenture into a sinking fund, which sinking fund shall be pledged to and charged with the payment of:

- (1) The interest upon the revenue bond as such interest shall fall due;
- (2) The principal of the revenue bonds as the same shall fall due;
- (3) Any premium upon the revenue bonds acquired by redemption, payment, or otherwise;
- (4) The necessary charges of the paying agent or agents for paying principal and interest; and
- (5) Any investment fees or charges.

The use and disposition of such sinking fund shall be subject to such regulations as may be provided in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the revenue bonds or in the trust indenture, but, except as may otherwise be provided in such resolution or trust indenture, such sinking fund shall be maintained as a trust account for the benefit of all revenue bonds without distinction or priority of one over another. Subject to the provisions of the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or in the trust indenture, any surplus moneys in the sinking fund may be applied to the purchase or redemption of bonds and any such bonds so purchased or redeemed shall forthwith be canceled and shall not be reissued, printed, and delivered.

SECTION 18.

Revenue bonds; remedies of bondholders.

Any holder of revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act or of any of the coupons appertaining thereto, and the trustee under the trust indenture, if any, except to the extent the rights given by this Act, may be restricted by resolution passed before the issuance of the bonds or by the trust indenture may, either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus, or other proceedings, protect and enforce any and all rights under the laws of the State of Georgia or granted by this Act or under such resolution or trust indenture and may enforce and compel performance of all duties required by this Act or by such resolution or trust

1 indenture, to be performed by the authority or any officer thereof, including the fixing,
2 charging, and collecting of revenues, fees, tolls, fines, and other charges for the use of the
3 facilities and services furnished.

4 **SECTION 19.**

5 Revenue bonds; refunding bonds.

6 The authority is authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance of bonds of the authority
7 for the purpose of funding or refunding any revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this
8 Act and then outstanding, together with the accrued interest thereon and the premium, if any.
9 The issuance of such funding or refunding bonds, the maturities and all other details thereof,
10 the rights of the holders thereof, and the duties of the authority in respect to the same shall
11 be governed by the foregoing provisions of this Act insofar as the same may be applicable.

12 **SECTION 20.**

13 Revenue bonds; jurisdiction and venue.

14 Any action to protect or enforce any rights under the provisions of this Act or any suit or
15 action against such authority shall be brought in the Superior Court of Bryan County,
16 Georgia, and any action pertaining to validation of bonds issued under the provisions of this
17 Act shall likewise be brought in said court which shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction
18 of such actions.

19 **SECTION 21.**

20 Revenue bonds, validation.

21 Bonds of the authority shall be confirmed and validated in accordance with the procedure of
22 Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law." The petition
23 for validation shall also make party defendant to such action the State of Georgia or any
24 municipality, county, authority, political subdivision, or instrumentality of the State of
25 Georgia which has contracted with the authority for the services and facilities of the project
26 for which bonds are to be issued and sought to be validated. The state or such municipality,
27 county, authority, political subdivision, or instrumentality shall be required to show cause,
28 if any, why such contract or contracts and the terms and conditions thereof shall not be
29 inquired into the court, and validity of the terms thereof shall be determined and the contract
30 or contracts shall be adjudicated as a part of the basis for the security for the payment of any
31 such bonds of the authority. The bonds, when validated, and the judgment of validation shall
32 be final and conclusive with respect to such bonds and the security for the payment thereof
33 and the interest thereon and against the authority issuing the same, the state, and any

1 municipality, county, authority, political subdivision, or instrumentality thereof, if a party to
2 the validation proceedings, contracting with the authority.

3 **SECTION 22.**

4 Revenue bonds; interest of bondholders protected.

5 (a) While any of the bonds issued by the authority remain outstanding, the powers, duties,
6 or existence of said authority or its officers, employees, or agents shall not be diminished or
7 impaired in any manner that will affect adversely the interests and rights of the holders of
8 such bonds. No other entity, department, agency, or authority will be created which will
9 compete with the authority to such an extent as to affect adversely the interest and rights of
10 the holders of such bonds, nor will the state itself so compete with the authority.

11 (b) The provisions of this Act shall be for the benefit of the authority and the holders of any
12 such bonds and, upon the issuance of bonds under the provisions of this Act, shall constitute
13 a contract with the holders of such bonds.

14 **SECTION 23.**

15 Moneys received considered trust funds.

16 All moneys received pursuant to the authority of this Act, whether as proceeds from the sale
17 of revenue bonds, as grants or other contributions, or as revenue, income, fees, and earnings
18 shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as provided in this Act.

19 **SECTION 24.**

20 Tort immunity.

21 To the extent permitted by law, the authority shall have the same immunity and exemption
22 from liability for torts and negligence as Bryan County, and the officers, agents, and
23 employees of the authority when in the performance of the work of the authority shall have
24 the same immunity and exemption from liability for torts and negligence as the officers,
25 agent, and employees of Bryan County when in performance of their public duties or work
26 of the county.

27 **SECTION 25.**

28 Rules and regulations for operation of projects.

29 It shall be the duty of the authority to prescribe rules and regulations for the operation of the
30 project or projects acquired or constructed under the provisions of this Act, including the
31 basis on which water service and facilities, sewerage service and facilities, or both, shall be
32 furnished.

SECTION 26.

Powers declared supplemental and additional.

The foregoing sections of this Act shall be deemed to provide an additional and alternative method for the doing of the things authorized by this Act and shall be regarded as supplemental and additional to powers conferred by other laws and shall not be regarded as in derogation of any powers now existing. This Act does not in any way take from Bryan County, any municipality located therein, any other adjoining county, or any private individual or corporation the authority to own, operate, and maintain any water system, small watershed project, project for watershed protection and flood control and prevention, recreational facilities developed in connection therewith, sewerage system, or combined water and sewerage system; nor does it in any way take from any of said political subdivisions of the state the authority to issue revenue bonds as provided by Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law."

SECTION 27.

Liberal construction of Act.

This Act being for the welfare of various political subdivisions of the State of Georgia and its inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes thereof.

SECTION 28.

Repealer.

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