

House Bill 703

By: Representative Smith of the 168th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 9 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to county
2 property generally, so as to provide that certain persons be granted first right to purchase
3 property previously condemned by the county; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 9 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to county property
8 generally, is amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (g) of Code Section 36-9-3,
9 relating to the sale or disposition of county property, as follows:

10 "(3) In disposing of property, as authorized under this subsection, the county shall notify
11 the owner of such property at the time of its acquisition. If the original owner of the
12 property at the time of the county's acquisition of such property is deceased, the county
13 shall make every effort to locate and give notice to the original owner's next of kin. If,
14 after 180 days, the county is unable to identify the next of kin of the original owner of the
15 property at the time of such property's acquisition or, if the tract from which the county
16 acquired its property has been subsequently sold, the county shall notify the owner of
17 abutting land holding title through the owner from whom the county acquired its
18 property. The notice shall be in writing and delivered to the appropriate owner or his or
19 her next of kin or shall be by publication if such owner's address is unknown; and such
20 owner or his or her next of kin shall have the right to acquire, as provided in this
21 subsection, the property with respect to which the notice is given. Publication, if
22 necessary, shall be in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the property
23 is located."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.