

The House Committee on State Planning and Community Affairs offers the following substitute to HB 703:

**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.
14 Provided that the county successfully contacted the original owner's next of kin, such next
15 of kin shall have the first opportunity to purchase the property which the county is
16 disposing of pursuant to this subsection. If, after 180 days, the county is unable to
17 identify the next of kin of the original owner of the property at the time of such property's
18 acquisition or, if the tract from which the county acquired its property has been
19 subsequently sold, the county shall notify the owner of abutting land holding title through
20 the owner from whom the county acquired its property. The notice shall be in writing
21 and delivered to the appropriate owner or shall be by publication if such owner's address
22 is unknown; and such owner shall have the right to acquire, as provided in this
23 subsection, the property with respect to which the notice is given. Publication, if
24 necessary, shall be in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the property
25 is located."

26

SECTION 2.

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.