

House Bill 734

By: Representative Hatfield of the 177<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Waycross, approved August  
2 17, 1909 (Ga. L. 1909, p. 1456), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 13, 1989  
3 (Ga. L. 1989, p. 4916), so as to provide that citizens of the City of Waycross shall have the  
4 right to address or speak to the city commissioners on official actions or other topics relating  
5 to the business of the city commission at meetings of the city commission by expressing their  
6 desire to speak no later than the beginning of the meeting at which such citizens desire to  
7 address or speak to the city commissioners; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 An Act providing a new charter for the City of Waycross, approved August 17, 1909  
12 (Ga. L. 1909, p. 1456), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 13, 1989  
13 (Ga. L. 1989, p. 4916), is amended by designating the present matter contained in Section 18  
14 of the Act as subsection (a) and adding a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

15 "(b) Any citizen of the City of Waycross shall have the right to address or speak to the city  
16 commissioners for not longer than five minutes on official actions or other topics relating  
17 to the business of the city commission at meetings of the city commission by expressing  
18 his or her desire to speak no later than the beginning of the meeting at which such citizen  
19 desires to address or speak to the city commissioners. The city commission may enact  
20 reasonable restrictions on the exercise of such right, including, but not limited to, decorum  
21 and identification of speakers; provided, however, that the city commission shall not  
22 impose any requirements that such citizens sign up or express their desire to speak at any  
23 earlier time or date than provided in this subsection."

24 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.