

House Bill 808

By: Representative Hatfield of the 177th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Satilla Regional Water and Sewer Authority, previously known
2 as the Ware County Water and Sewer Authority, approved October 1, 2001 (Ga. L. 2001,
3 Ex. Sess., p. 705), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 30, 2003 (Ga. L. 2003,
4 p. 3689), by an Act approved May 5, 2006 (Ga. L. 2006, p. 4216), by an Act approved
5 May 30, 2007 (Ga. L. 2007, p. 4367), and by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008,
6 p. 4278), so as to revise the manner of selection of the members of the authority; to revise
7 the manner of tabulating the votes for members of the authority; to provide for related
8 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

10 An Act creating the Satilla Regional Water and Sewer Authority, previously known as the
11 Ware County Water and Sewer Authority, approved October 1, 2001 (Ga. L. 2001, Ex. Sess.,
12 p. 705), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 30, 2003 (Ga. L. 2003, p. 3689),
13 by an Act approved May 5, 2006 (Ga. L. 2006, p. 4216), by an Act approved May 30, 2007
14 (Ga. L. 2007, p. 4367), and by an Act approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 4278), is
15 amended by revising subsection (d) of Section 2 as follows:
16

17 "(d) For purposes of electing members of the authority, each person, firm, corporation, or
18 other entity having an account with, and receiving services from, the authority shall be
19 entitled to cast one vote for each such account maintained with the authority in accordance
20 with the following procedures, provided that each person, firm, corporation, or other entity
21 shall be limited to a maximum of five votes:

22 (1) Prior to each election for the position of a member of the authority, the authority shall
23 establish a period of time for the submission of nominations of candidates. Each sitting
24 member of the authority shall be entitled to nominate one candidate. Additionally, any
25 account holder shall be entitled to submit one petition for nomination of a candidate,
26 provided that such petition, to be valid, shall be accompanied by the signatures of at least

27 50 other account holders. Following the close of the nominations period, the authority
28 shall designate for inclusion on the election ballot the name of each candidate nominated
29 by a sitting authority member, as well as the name of each candidate for which a valid
30 petition for nomination was submitted;

31 (2) In addition to the names of the candidates, the election ballot shall contain spaces for
32 the full name, account number, and handwritten signature of the account holder. The
33 election ballot shall be submitted by the authority to each account holder by mailing such
34 ballot, with the account holder's monthly authority bill, to each account holder at such
35 account holder's billing address on file with the authority. After voting for one candidate
36 and providing the account holder's full name, account number, and handwritten signature,
37 the account holder shall seal the ballot in an envelope addressed to the secretary of the
38 authority and shall mail or hand deliver such ballot to the secretary of the authority at
39 such address as may be designated by said secretary. No ballot shall be counted which
40 is not actually received by or on behalf of the secretary at the address designated by the
41 secretary on or before the due date of the account holder's bill. No account holder shall
42 submit his or her monthly authority bill payment in the envelope containing the
43 completed ballot which is submitted to the secretary. The secretary and chairperson of
44 the authority, or, if the chairperson is a candidate in such election, the secretary and
45 another member of the authority who is not a candidate in such election selected by the
46 secretary, shall tabulate the election ballots; provided, however, that no ballot shall be
47 counted which, in the judgment of the secretary and chairperson or other authority
48 member counting the ballots, has been fraudulently prepared or fraudulently submitted
49 or which otherwise fails to comply with the procedural requirements set forth in this
50 subsection; and

51 (3) The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected as a member
52 of the authority, provided that such candidate must also receive a majority of the votes
53 cast. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, then the names
54 of the candidates having the two greatest numbers of votes shall be submitted to the
55 consumers of the authority on a runoff ballot in accordance with paragraph (2) of this
56 subsection. Thereafter, the candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast in such runoff
57 shall be elected as a member of the authority."

58 **SECTION 2.**

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