

House Bill 808

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

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:

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

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

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.