

House Bill 594 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Sims of the 169<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Willacoochee, approved  
2 December 22, 1953 (Ga. L. 1953, Nov.-Dec. Sess., p. 3039), as amended, particularly by an  
3 Act approved March 25, 1980 (Ga. L. 1980, p. 3941), so as to revise the method of filling  
4 vacancies; to provide for related matters; to provide for submission under Section 5 of the  
5 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating a new charter for the City of Willacoochee, approved December 22, 1953  
10 (Ga. L. 1953, Nov.-Dec. Sess., p. 3039), as amended, particularly by an Act approved  
11 March 25, 1980 (Ga. L. 1980, p. 3941), is amended by revising subsection (b) of Section 203  
12 as follows:

13 "(b) In the event that the office of mayor or council member shall become vacant upon the  
14 incumbent's death, resignation, forfeiture of office, or removal from office in any manner  
15 authorized by this charter or the general laws of the State of Georgia and there is one year  
16 or less remaining in such person's term of office, the city council or those remaining shall  
17 appoint a qualified individual to fill the balance of the unexpired term of such person. In  
18 the event that there is more than one year remaining in such person's term of office, the  
19 vacancy shall be filled by special election called and held in accordance with Code  
20 Section 21-2-540 of the O.C.G.A. In the event that all seats on the council are vacant, such  
21 vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 36-30-13."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 The governing authority of the City of Willacoochee shall through its legal counsel cause this  
24 Act to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as

25 amended, no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the Governor  
26 or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.