

Senate Bill 515

By: Senator Hooks of the 14th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Americus, approved April 13, 1992
2 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5985), as amended, so as to provide for a date of expiration of office for
3 terms of councilmembers and the mayor; to provide for taking of office and swearing in of
4 newly elected or reelected councilmembers and mayors; to provide for meetings for the
5 establishment of council business; to provide for the administration of the oath of office; to
6 provide for a quorum and presiding officers at meetings; to provide for applicability; to
7 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act providing a new charter for the City of Americus, approved April 13, 1992 (Ga. L.
11 1992, p. 5985), as amended, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 2-102 as
12 follows:

13 "(a) The members of the city council, including the mayor, shall serve for terms of four
14 years and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. Notwithstanding the
15 foregoing, the mayor and councilmembers shall be elected to serve for terms of such length
16 specifically provided for in Article V, Section 5-102, of this charter. Terms of office for
17 the mayor and members of the city council, as provided in this charter, shall expire on
18 December 31 of each year unless the respective successors in office have not been duly
19 elected and qualified."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 2-201 as follows:

22 "Section 2-201.
23 Organizational meetings.

24 (a) The newly elected or reelected mayor and councilmembers shall take office at 12:01
25 A.M. on January 1 of the year following their elections. The newly elected or reelected
26 mayor and councilmembers shall be sworn in during the last regularly scheduled December
27 council meeting following their elections.

28 (b) The oath of office shall be administered to the newly elected or reelected mayor and
29 councilmembers by a duly elected or appointed judge authorized to hear and decide matters
30 in Sumter County, Georgia. The oath of office shall be taken as follows:

31 'I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully preform the duties of (mayor)
32 (councilmember) of this city and that I will support and defend the charter thereof as
33 well as the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and of the United States of
34 America.'

35 (c) During the last regularly scheduled December council meeting of each year, the council
36 shall establish the regular meeting dates and times for the ensuing calendar year, determine
37 the legal organ for the city, and appoint various department positions that are required by
38 this charter or by ordinance of the city."

39 **SECTION 3.**

40 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Section 2-202 as follows:

41 "(b) The mayor and three members of the council or, in the absence of the mayor, four
42 members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the
43 event that neither the mayor nor the mayor pro tempore is present at a regular or special
44 meeting of the council, then the councilmember present at the meeting who has the longest
45 period of continuous service as a member of the council shall preside over such meeting."

46 **SECTION 4.**

47 This Act shall not be applied to shorten or lengthen the current term of any person holding
48 office on the date this Act becomes effective.

49 **SECTION 5.**

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