

House Bill 1235

By: Representatives Murphy of the 120th, Howard of the 121st, Smith of the 122nd, and Frazier of the 123rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing for the consolidated government of Augusta-Richmond County,
2 approved March 27, 1995 (Ga. L. 1995, p. 3648), as amended, so as to provide that certain
3 departments, agencies, and authorities of the consolidated government and certain private
4 entities which contract with the consolidated government for the provision of government
5 services shall have periodic forensic accounting audits; to provide for sanctions for failure
6 to do so; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
7 for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Augusta-Richmond County Transparency
11 in Government Act."

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 An Act providing for the consolidated government of Augusta-Richmond County, approved
14 March 27, 1995 (Ga. L. 1995, p. 3648), as amended, is amended by adding a new section to
15 read as follows:

16 **"SECTION 10A.**

17 (a) Each department, agency, and authority of the consolidated government and any
18 private entity which has contracted with the consolidated government for the provision of
19 government services that is responsible for \$500,000.00 or more in public funds or
20 revenues annually shall have a forensic accounting audit at least every four years. Such
21 audit shall be performed by an independent accounting firm that is not associated in any
22 way with the consolidated government. The report of such audit shall be made available
23 to the commission and to the public upon its completion.

(b) It shall be the duty of the commission to ensure that all affected departments, agencies, authorities, and private entities subject to the provisions of this section have a forensic accounting audit at least once every four years.

(c) The failure by the head of a department or agency or the board of an authority to have a forensic accounting audit performed for such department, agency, or authority at least once every four years as provided in this section shall be grounds for termination or removal. The failure by a private entity that has contracted with the consolidated government for the provision of government services to have a forensic accounting audit performed for such entity at least once every four years as provided in this section with regard to such contracted services shall be grounds for termination of the contract and for being deemed ineligible for further contracts with the consolidated government."

SECTION 2.

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