

The House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Legislation offers the following substitute to HB 1235:

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 on behalf of the consolidated government that is responsible for
20 \$500,000.00 or more in public funds or revenues annually shall have a forensic accounting
21 audit at least every four years. Such audit shall be performed by an independent
22 accounting firm that is not associated in any way with the consolidated government. The
23 report of such audit shall be made available to the commission and to the public upon its
24 completion.

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

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

37

SECTION 2.

38 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.