

House Bill 1281 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

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

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Ware County Water and Sewer Authority, now known as the  
2 Satilla Regional Water and Sewer Authority, approved October 1, 2001 (Ga. L. 2001,  
3 Ex. Sess., p. 705), as amended, so as to allow members to be elected for unlimited  
4 consecutive terms; to repeal a provision relating to expansion of services and addition of  
5 members; to reduce the number of days of nonpayment beyond which the authority may  
6 disconnect service; to raise the maximum fee for reconnection of service; to exempt the  
7 authority from sales and use taxes; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act creating the Ware County Water and Sewer Authority, now known as the Satilla  
11 Regional Water and Sewer Authority, approved October 1, 2001 (Ga. L. 2001, Ex. Sess.,  
12 p. 705), as amended, is amended by revising subsections (b) and (c) of Section 2 to read as  
13 follows:

14 "(b) The authority shall consist of four members who shall be elected by the consumers  
15 of the authority, as provided in subsection (d) of this section, and a fifth member who shall  
16 be the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Ware County or, in the event that  
17 such chairperson is unable or unwilling to serve, another member of the Board of  
18 Commissioners of Ware County as designated by proper resolution of the Board of  
19 Commissioners of Ware County. The chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Ware  
20 County or his or her designated substitute shall serve as an ex officio member of the  
21 authority with all the rights, privileges, and immunities of an elected member of the  
22 authority. The term of office, as a member of the authority, of the chairperson of the Board  
23 of Commissioners of Ware County or his or her designated substitute shall run concurrently  
24 with the elected term of office of the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Ware  
25 County. Each member of the authority who is serving as a member of the authority as of  
26 the effective date of this section shall serve out the remainder of the five-year term to

27 which such member was most recently appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Ware  
 28 County and until such member's successor is duly elected and qualified as provided in  
 29 subsection (d) of this section. Successors shall be elected as provided in subsection (d) of  
 30 this section. Each successor shall thereafter take office on the first day of August for a  
 31 term of four years and until his or her respective successor is duly elected and qualified as  
 32 provided in subsection (d) of this section. Immediately after taking office, the members  
 33 of the authority shall enter upon their duties. The members of the authority shall be entitled  
 34 to compensation for their services in an amount which shall be determined by the authority  
 35 and which shall not be less than \$50.00 per meeting attended, payable in monthly  
 36 payments, and all members shall additionally be reimbursed for their actual expenses  
 37 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The authority shall have the power  
 38 to establish bylaws and to promulgate and adopt rules and regulations necessary or  
 39 desirable for the management and operation of the authority.

40 (c) Reserved."

41 **SECTION 2.**

42 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 24.1 to read as follows:

43 "SECTION 24.1.

44 The authority shall provide, upon customer request, a written receipt to the customer  
 45 showing the actual date on which a payment from the customer to the authority was  
 46 received by the authority. The authority is authorized to charge a late fee in an amount not  
 47 to exceed \$5.00 in the event that a bill is not paid in full by the due date specified on the  
 48 authority's written billing. Only when a customer's bill remains unpaid or outstanding after  
 49 ten days beyond the due date may the authority disconnect service to such customer for  
 50 nonpayment of a bill. In the event that service is disconnected for nonpayment of a bill  
 51 pursuant to this section, the authority is authorized to require the payment of a reconnection  
 52 fee in an amount not to exceed \$25.00, as well as the payment of any outstanding late fee,  
 53 prior to the reconnection of the service at the request of the customer."

54 **SECTION 3.**

55 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 27 to read as follows:

56 "SECTION 27.

57 The properties of the authority, both real and personal, are declared to be public properties  
 58 used for the benefit and welfare of the people of this state and not for purposes of private  
 59 or corporate benefit and income, and such properties and the authority shall be exempt  
 60 from all sales and use taxes and special assessments of any city, county, or the state or any  
 61 political subdivision thereof."

62

**SECTION 4.**

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