

House Bill 286

By: Representative Harden of the 148<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To provide for the restructuring of the governments of the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County; to create and incorporate a new political body corporate under the name Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia; to provide for the status, boundaries, and powers of the restructured government; to provide for the form, administration, and affairs of the restructured government; to provide for officers and employees, elections, courts, authorities, taxation, and finance; to provide for related matters; to provide for severability; to provide for a referendum; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

ARTICLE I  
CONSOLIDATION, CREATION, BOUNDARIES, STATUS,  
AND POWERS OF HAWKINSVILLE-PULASKI COUNTY, GEORGIA

**SECTION 1-1-1.**  
Consolidation of county and city; name.

(a) The governmental and corporate powers, duties, and functions now vested in the governing authority of the City of Hawkinsville, a municipal corporation incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly of Georgia, approved April 4, 1991 (Ga. L. 1991, p. 4711), as amended, are hereby consolidated with the governmental and corporate powers, duties, and functions of Pulaski County. This consolidation shall result in the creation and establishment of a single county-wide government with powers and jurisdiction throughout the territorial limits of Pulaski County. Such county-wide government shall be a new political entity, a body politic and corporate, and a political subdivision of the state to be known as Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, having all the governmental and corporate powers, duties, and functions previously held by and vested in the City of Hawkinsville and in Pulaski County and also the powers, duties, and functions provided in this charter.

(b) Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall be a public corporation; shall have perpetual existence; shall adopt a common seal; shall, without the necessity or formality of a deed, bill of sale, or other instrument of transfer, own, possess, and hold all the properties of whatsoever kind or nature, assets, contracts, franchises, things, rights, privileges, immunities, and real and personal property theretofore owned, possessed, enjoyed, or held by the City of Hawkinsville or Pulaski County; and by the name of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall be capable of suing and being sued when authorized by this charter and by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia.

(c) On the effective date of this charter, the political subdivision known as Pulaski County, Georgia, and the municipal corporation known as the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia, shall be consolidated and merged into the new political entity created by this charter.

(d) The consolidation of the governments of the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County is authorized pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section III, Paragraph II(a) of the Constitution of the State of Georgia of 1983, as amended.

#### **SECTION 1-1-2.**

##### **Boundaries.**

Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall embrace the total area included within the existing territorial limits of Pulaski County as such limits are established on the effective date of this charter, provided that such limits may be altered and changed from time to time as provided by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia pertaining to counties.

#### **SECTION 1-1-3.**

##### **Status as municipal corporation and county.**

Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall be deemed to be both a municipal corporation and a county throughout the total territorial limits of such government.

#### **SECTION 1-1-4.**

##### **Powers.**

(a) Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall have all rights, powers, duties, privileges, and authority, whether express or implied, that may now be vested in or hereafter granted to counties, municipal corporations, or both by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

(b) In addition to the rights, duties, powers, privileges, and authority expressly conferred by this charter, the consolidated government of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall

have the right, duty, power, privilege, and authority to exercise and enjoy all other powers, duties, functions, rights, privileges, and immunities necessary and proper to promote or protect the safety, health, peace, security, and general welfare of the government and its inhabitants and to exercise all implied powers necessary to carry into execution all powers granted in this charter as fully and completely as if such powers were fully enumerated in this charter and to do and perform all of the acts pertaining to its property, affairs, and local government which are necessary or proper in the legitimate exercise of its corporate powers and governmental duties and functions.

(c) In addition to and supplementary to all other powers which it may possess, and by way of illustration and not of limitation, the consolidated government shall have the powers specifically enumerated in Section 8-1-3 of this charter. No enumeration of any right, power, privilege, or authority shall be construed as limiting or abolishing any right, power, privilege, or authority set forth in this charter.

#### **SECTION 1-1-5.**

Establishment of services districts.

Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall initially be divided into two service districts. The boundaries of the special and general services districts, taxation and services within those districts, and the methods for changing district boundaries or services and for creating new districts are set forth in Section 7-1-2 of this charter.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **GOVERNING AUTHORITY**

##### **CHAPTER 1**

Board of commissioners.

#### **SECTION 2-1-1.**

Name.

The governing authority of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall be and is hereby designated as the "Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia."

**SECTION 2-1-2.**

## Composition and election.

The Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall consist of five members, serving in part-time positions, including a chairperson elected at large and four commissioners who shall be elected from single-member districts as provided in Section 6-2-1 of this charter. The chairperson shall be elected by the voters of the county, and each member of the board from single-member districts shall be elected by the voters of the district that he or she represents. Each commissioner shall be elected in nonpartisan elections as provided for in Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

**SECTION 2-1-3.**

## Terms and qualifications.

(a) The initial term of office of the chairperson of the board of commissioners and commissioners elected from Districts 2 and 4 shall be two years, with members taking office on the first day of January immediately following their election and serving until their successors are elected and qualified. The initial term of office for commissioners elected from Districts 1 and 3 shall be four years, with members taking office on the first day of January immediately following their election and serving until their successors are elected and qualified. Successors shall be elected in nonpartisan elections coinciding with the general primary election immediately preceding the expiration of their term of office.

(b) Other than as provided in subsection (a) of this section, subsequent terms of office shall be four years, with members taking office on the first day of January immediately following their election and serving until their successors are elected and qualified. Successors to those elected to the initial terms of office shall be elected in nonpartisan elections coinciding with the general primary election immediately preceding the expiration of their term of office.

(c) Each candidate for chairperson of the board of commissioners shall specify that such person is offering for election to the at-large position. Each candidate for the single-member district seats on the board of commissioners shall specify the district for which such person is offering for election. The successful candidate for chairperson shall be elected by a majority of the qualified electors voting in the county. Each successful candidate for single-member districts shall be elected by a majority of the qualified electors voting in such district. No person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the board of commissioners unless such person shall, on or before the date of election or appointment to such office, have attained the age of 21, be a qualified elector of Hawkinsville-Pulaski

County, have been a resident of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County for at least 12 months prior to the election, and have been a resident of the district from which such person offers as a candidate for at least 12 months prior to the election. Failure of a member to continue to reside within the district from which elected or appointed during such member's term of office shall result in forfeiture of office.

#### **SECTION 2-1-4.**

##### **Powers.**

All powers of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, including any such powers which may hereafter be conferred by amendment of this charter or by the Constitution or laws of Georgia, shall be vested in the Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, except as otherwise provided by law or by this charter. The board shall provide by ordinance for the exercise of such powers and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, by law.

#### **SECTION 2-1-5.**

##### **Chairperson; vice chairperson; powers; duties; term limits; vacancies.**

(a) The chairperson shall be the executive head of the consolidated government and shall have such other powers and duties as may be provided by ordinance or resolution that are not in conflict with this charter. Specifically, the chairperson shall:

- (1) Preside over all meetings of the board of commissioners;
- (2) Serve as the ceremonial head of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, and as its official representative to federal, state, and local governmental bodies and officials;
- (3) Set the agenda for meetings of the board of commissioners after receiving input from members of the board of commissioners;
- (4) Call special meetings of the board as provided by this charter;
- (5) Appoint and remove with a majority vote of the board the attorney for the consolidated government, members of all boards and authorities of the consolidated government, and members of committees of the board;
- (6) Sign orders, checks, and warrants for payment of money subject to the policies and procedures adopted by the board of commissioners;
- (7) Execute all contracts, deeds, and other obligations of the consolidated government; and
- (8) Perform any other duties and exercise any other powers required by state or federal law or authorized by a duly adopted ordinance that is not in conflict with this charter.

151 (b) The chairperson shall be authorized to vote on any matter before the board of  
152 commissioners in the same manner as any other member of the board. The chairperson shall  
153 not have the power to veto any ordinance or resolution duly enacted or adopted by the board  
154 of commissioners.

155 (c) At their first meeting in January each year, the commissioners shall elect a vice  
156 chairperson to serve for a term of one year. In the absence of the chairperson for any cause,  
157 the vice chairperson shall preside over meetings and discharge the duties of the chairperson.  
158 If a vacancy occurs in the position of chairperson, the vice chairperson shall assume the  
159 duties and receive the compensation of chairperson until a successor is elected or appointed  
160 and sworn into office as provided in Section 2-1-7 of this charter.

161 **SECTION 2-1-6.**

162 Compensation.

163 (a) The members of the board of commissioners shall be compensated at the base rate of  
164 \$500.00 per month from funds of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County.

165 (b) The chairperson of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall be compensated at the base rate  
166 of \$750.00 per month from funds of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County.

167 (c) The chairperson and members of the board of commissioners shall be eligible for such  
168 benefits as authorized under Code Section 36-1-11.1, subsection (a) of Code Section 36-35-4,  
169 and Code Sections 36-5-27 through 36-5-29 of the O.C.G.A.

170 (d) In addition to their salary, commissioners shall be reimbursed, under such regulations  
171 and limitations as may be adopted by the board of commissioners, for direct expenses  
172 incurred in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the consolidated government.

173 (e) The salary of members of the board may be changed by ordinance or resolution in the  
174 manner specified for county governing authorities in Code Section 36-5-24 of the O.C.G.A.  
175 or any similar future general law of the State of Georgia.

176 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board of Commissioners of  
177 Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, from exercising its home rule powers as established  
178 in Code Section 36-5-24 of the O.C.G.A.

179 **SECTION 2-1-7.**

180 Vacancies.

181 (a) The office of commissioner shall become vacant if a member ceases to reside in the  
182 district from which elected or upon a member's death, resignation, or removal from office

or forfeiture of office upon the occurrence of any event specified by the Constitution, Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., or any other applicable law, now existing or hereafter enacted.

(b)(1) In the event that the office of commissioner becomes vacant for any reason, a successor shall be selected as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection.

(2) If there are more than 12 months remaining in the unexpired term, the position shall be filled by special election at the next permissible date for a special election. The special election shall be called by the election superintendent as provided by general law. Any person so elected must possess the same qualifications for election as set forth in subsection (c) of Section 2-1-3 of this charter.

(3) If less than 12 months remain in the unexpired term, the board of commissioners shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term. Any person so appointed must possess the same qualifications for election as set forth in subsection (c) of Section 2-1-3 of this charter.

## CHAPTER 2

### Organization and procedure.

#### **SECTION 2-2-1.**

Oath; rules; records; meetings; quorum; emergency ordinances.

(a) The board of commissioners shall hold its organizational meetings on the first working day in January following the general election. At or before such meetings, the newly elected or reelected commissioners shall each take the following oath of office, to be administered by the judge of the probate court:

"I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will well and truly perform the duties of the office of commissioner of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, and that I will support and defend the charter thereof and the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and of the United States."

(b) The board shall determine its own rules and order of business as it deems appropriate to govern the conduct and procedures of its meetings, provided that the board shall comply with the open and public meeting requirements of Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A. The board shall provide for the keeping of minutes of its proceedings which shall be a public record.

(c) The board shall hold at least one regular meeting each month. The board shall adopt by ordinance the time, date, and place for such meeting. No additional notice shall be required to be given for any regular meeting.

(d) The board may hold such special meetings as it deems necessary or proper. Special meetings may be held on the call of the chairperson or any two or more commissioners upon

218 no less than 24 hours' written notice to each member at the usual place of business or  
219 residence of such member. Notice of special meetings must be provided for as specified by  
220 Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A.

221 (e) The board of commissioners shall establish by ordinance procedures for the convening  
222 of emergency meetings.

223 (f) A majority of the members then serving on the board of commissioners shall constitute  
224 a quorum for the transaction of business. No official act which is to have the force and effect  
225 of law shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the  
226 board then serving.

227 (g) To meet a public emergency threatening life, health, property, or public safety, the board  
228 of commissioners may adopt emergency ordinances; provided, however, that such ordinances  
229 may not be enacted to levy taxes; to grant, renew, or extend a franchise; to regulate the rate  
230 charged for any public utility or service; or to authorize the borrowing of money unless it  
231 shall be repaid in 30 days or less. An emergency ordinance shall be plainly designated as an  
232 emergency ordinance and shall contain a declaration stating what emergency exists. An  
233 emergency ordinance may be adopted with or without amendment, but the affirmative vote  
234 of the board of commissioners shall be required for adoption. An emergency ordinance shall  
235 stand repealed on the sixteenth day following the date of its adoption; provided, however,  
236 that, if the emergency still exists, it may be reenacted as provided in this subsection. An  
237 emergency ordinance may be repealed by adoption of a repealing ordinance in the same  
238 manner specified for the adoption of an emergency ordinance.

## 239 CHAPTER 3

240 Ethics and prohibited practices.

### 241 SECTION 2-3-1.

242 Conflicts of interest; holding other offices.

243 (a) Conflicts of interest. No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the  
244 consolidated government or of any agency or political entity to which this charter applies  
245 shall knowingly:

246 (1) Engage in any business or transaction or have a financial or other personal interest,  
247 direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her official  
248 duties or which would tend to impair the independence of his or her judgment or action  
249 in the performance of his or her official duties;

250 (2) Engage in or accept private employment or render services for private interests when  
251 such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her



official duties or would tend to impair the independence of his or her judgment or action in the performance of his or her official duties;

(3) Disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of the governmental body by which he or she is engaged without proper legal authorization or use such information to advance the financial or other private interest of himself or herself or others;

(4) Accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of a service, loan, thing, or promise, from any person, firm, or corporation which to his or her knowledge is interested, directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, in business dealings with the governmental body by which he or she is engaged; provided, however, that an elected official who is a candidate for public office may accept campaign contributions and services in connection with any such campaign. The board shall adopt a policy or ordinance which quantifies and defines the terms of valuable gifts;

(5) Represent other private interests in any action or proceeding against the consolidated government or any portion thereof; or

(6) Vote or otherwise participate in the negotiation or in the making of any contract with any business or entity in which he or she has a financial interest.

(b) Disclosure. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee who shall have any private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within any department of the consolidated government shall disclose such private interest to the board of commissioners. Any commissioner who has a private interest in any matter pending before the board of commissioners shall disclose such private interest, such disclosure shall be entered on the records of the board, and the commissioner shall disqualify himself or herself from participating in any decision or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of any agency or political entity to which this charter applies who shall have any private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within any department of the consolidated government shall disclose such private interest to the governing body of the agency or entity.

(c) Use of public property. No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the consolidated government or of any agency or entity to which this charter applies shall use property owned by such governmental body for personal benefit, convenience, or profit except in accordance with policies promulgated by the board of commissioners or the governing body of such agency or entity.

(d) Contracts voidable and rescindable. Any violation of this section which occurs with the knowledge, express or implied, of a party to a contract or sale shall render such contract or sale voidable at the option of the board of commissioners.

288 (e) Ineligibility of elected official. Except where authorized by law, no commissioner shall  
289 hold any other elective or compensated appointed office in the consolidated government or  
290 otherwise be employed by the consolidated government or any agency thereof during the  
291 term for which he or she is elected, unless he or she vacates the office.

292 (f) Political activities of certain officers and employees. Any appointed officer or employee  
293 of the consolidated government shall be required to take a leave of absence or resign his or  
294 her position upon qualifying as a candidate for nomination or election to any elected office.

295 (g) Penalties for violations. Any officer who knowingly conceals such financial interest or  
296 knowingly violates any of the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance in  
297 office and shall be subject to the following penalties and actions:

- 298 (1) Written warning, censure, or reprimand to be issued in public;
- 299 (2) Removal from office as provided by Georgia law;
- 300 (3) Cancellation of the contract or rejection of the bid or offer;
- 301 (4) Recovery of the value transferred or received; and
- 302 (5) Referral to proper criminal authorities.

## 303 **SECTION 2-3-2.**

### 304 Prohibitions.

305 No member of the board of commissioners shall hold any other federal, state, or local  
306 elective office during that person's term of office as a commissioner. Nothing in this section  
307 shall be construed to prohibit any member of the board from representing  
308 Hawkinsville-Pulaski County on any special commission or regional entity or other  
309 intergovernmental agency or accepting any federal, state, or local appointive office unless  
310 prohibited by law.

## 311 **ARTICLE III**

### 312 **ADMINISTRATOR**

#### 313 **SECTION 3-1-1.**

##### 314 Appointment; qualifications; compensation.

315 (a) The board of commissioners by a majority vote of the members then serving shall  
316 appoint an administrator for a term to be determined by the board. The administrator shall  
317 serve at the pleasure of the board.

318 (b) Except as specifically provided in this section, the board shall, by ordinance, establish  
319 the administrator's qualifications, powers, duties, and compensation.

**ARTICLE IV****ADMINISTRATION****CHAPTER 1**

Officers.

**SECTION 4-1-1.**

Sheriff; law enforcement.

The sheriff of Pulaski County in office on the effective date of this charter shall be the sheriff of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia. The sheriff shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and the compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for the sheriff shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of sheriffs generally. The sheriff shall be the chief law enforcement officer of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia. In addition, the sheriff shall be responsible for the operation of the jail, the transport of prisoners, the service of process, and such other duties as are required of sheriffs by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

**SECTION 4-1-2.**

Judge of the probate court; clerk of the superior court;  
tax commissioner; coroner; magistrate; surveyor.

The judge of the probate court, the clerk of the superior court, the tax commissioner, the coroner, the magistrate, and the surveyor of Pulaski County shall, after consolidation, be the judge of the probate court, the clerk of the superior court, the tax commissioner, the coroner, the magistrate, and the surveyor, respectively, of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia. These officers shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and the compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for these officers shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of such officers generally. The judge of the probate court, the clerk of the superior court, the tax commissioner, the coroner, the magistrate, and the surveyor shall perform the same duties and exercise the same powers as conferred on such officers generally by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

**SECTION 4-1-3.**

Attorney.

The attorney for Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall be appointed and removed by the chairperson upon a vote of a majority of the members of the board of commissioners. The attorney shall act as the chief legal adviser to the board of commissioners, the administrator,

352 and all departments and agencies of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County and shall represent said  
353 government in all legal proceedings and perform such other duties prescribed by general law,  
354 by this charter, or by ordinance or resolution of the board of commissioners. The board of  
355 commissioners shall set the qualifications and compensation of the attorney and any other  
356 matters relative to the selection of the attorney.

## 357 CHAPTER 2

### 358 Personnel.

#### 359 SECTION 4-2-1.

360 Existing pension rights protected.

361 All employees and former employees of any office, department, board, commission, or  
362 agency of the former City of Hawkinsville or of the former Pulaski County shall retain all  
363 pension rights, if any, which had accrued to them prior to the effective date of this charter  
364 under any existing pension system. The services of such employees shall not be deemed to  
365 have been interrupted by the adoption of this charter.

#### 366 SECTION 4-2-2.

367 Establishment of new pension systems.

368 The board of commissioners is authorized and empowered to establish and maintain a new  
369 pension system or pension systems affecting employees and to revise, combine, and  
370 consolidate any pension system in effect on the effective date of this charter; provided,  
371 however, that in no event shall any revision, combination, or unification of any existing  
372 pension system in effect when this charter is adopted result in the curtailment or  
373 diminishment of any right accrued under any existing pension system to any person  
374 heretofore employed by the City of Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, or of any agency of such  
375 former governments.

#### 376 SECTION 4-2-3.

377 Establishment of personnel system.

378 The board of commissioners shall establish a personnel system for all employees under the  
379 control of the consolidated government. The system shall be consistent with all state and  
380 federal laws.

**SECTION 4-2-4.**

Nepotism.

No elected or appointed official or employee of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall advocate, recommend, supervise, manage, or cause the employment, appointment, promotion, transfer, or advancement of his or her immediate relative to an office or position of employment within the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County government. An immediate relative includes spouse, mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, son, daughter, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, stepdaughter, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, half brother, half sister, grandchild, stepgrandchild, grandparent, and grandparent of spouse.

**CHAPTER 3**

Boards, commissions, and authorities.

**SECTION 4-3-1.**

Boards, commissions, and authorities continued.

All existing boards, commissions, and authorities of either the City of Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, or both are continued without interruption on the effective date of this charter.

**SECTION 4-3-2.**

Boards, commissions, and authorities; appointments thereto.

Whenever general or local law provides for appointments to boards, commissions, or authorities from both the city and the county, all appointments shall be made by the Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, and all appointees shall be residents of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County.

**ARTICLE V****JUDICIARY****SECTION 5-1-1.**

Superior court and district attorney; probate court; magistrate court; unaffected by charter; redesignation.

(a) The Superior Court of Pulaski County, including the office of district attorney; the Probate Court of Pulaski County; and the Magistrate Court of Pulaski County shall continue their operations without interruption resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing

411 herein shall be construed as affecting the status of said courts. The courts shall be known as  
412 the Superior Court of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, the Probate Court of  
413 Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, and the Magistrate Court of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County.  
414 (b) On the effective date of this charter, the Municipal Court of Hawkinsville shall stand  
415 abolished. Any pending cases shall be transferred to the probate court, the magistrate court,  
416 or the superior court of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, whichever has appropriate jurisdiction  
417 of the case.

## 418 ARTICLE VI

## 419 ELECTIONS

### 420 CHAPTER 1

421 Conduct of elections.

#### 422 SECTION 6-1-1.

423 Applicability of general laws.

424 Except as otherwise provided by this charter, regular and special primaries and elections shall  
425 be conducted in accordance with provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the  
426 "Georgia Election Code." As used in this chapter, the terms "election" or "general election"  
427 shall be construed to include the term "regular election" as provided in Section 6-1-2 of this  
428 charter; the term "governing authority" shall include the chairperson and the Board of  
429 Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia; the terms "municipal,"  
430 "municipality," or "county" shall include Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia; and the  
431 term "public office" shall include the elective offices of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County,  
432 Georgia.

#### 433 SECTION 6-1-2.

434 Initial and regular elections; voting.

435 The initial members of the governing authority of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia,  
436 shall be elected at a special election to be held in 2014 on the date established in Title 21 of  
437 the O.C.G.A. for nonpartisan elections. Subsequent elections shall be held as provided in  
438 Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A. for nonpartisan elections in even-numbered years,  
439 beginning in 2018. All elections shall be held as specified in general law. Except for special  
440 elections to fill vacancies in office, all officers who are required by this charter to be elected  
441 shall be elected at the nonpartisan election immediately preceding the expiration of such  
442 officers' term of office.

## CHAPTER 2

Election districts.

**SECTION 6-2-1.**

Number of districts; boundaries.

(a) For the purpose of electing the members of the board of commissioners, the territory of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall be divided into four election districts. One member of the board shall be elected from each such district. Commissioner Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be and correspond to those four numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as "Plan: pulaski-cons-2013 Plan Type: Local Administrator: Pulaski Co. User: Gina".

(b) For the purposes of such plan:

(1) The term "VTD" shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia; and

(2) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

(c) Any part of Pulaski County which is not included in any district described in subsection (a) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

(d) Any part of Pulaski County which is described in subsection (a) of this section as being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

## ARTICLE VII

## REVENUE AND FINANCE

## CHAPTER 1

Taxation and other revenues.

**SECTION 7-1-1.**

Levy and collection of taxes, fees, charges, and assessments; appropriations.

(a) For the purpose of raising revenue for the support and maintenance of the government of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, the board of commissioners shall have full power and authority to levy and collect taxes and fees and to appropriate funds and expend money.

(b) The board of commissioners shall have full power and authority to levy and collect all taxes, charges, and assessments which counties and municipalities are authorized to levy and collect, to the full extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of Georgia, whether local or general, including any tax hereafter authorized by state law.

**SECTION 7-1-2.**

Services districts; taxation therein.

(a) Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall initially be composed of two services districts, wherein taxes and fees shall be assessed, levied, and collected in accordance with the kind, character, type, degree, and level of services provided by said government within such services districts, and the rate and manner of taxation may vary in any one district from that in other districts. One of such districts shall be known as the general services district and one of such districts shall be known as the special services district. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all special services districts shall be created, expanded, merged, consolidated, or reduced only by an ordinance duly adopted by the board of commissioners under such general rules, procedures, regulations, requirements, and specifications as established by the board; provided, however, that no new special services district shall be created or existing such districts expanded, abolished, merged, consolidated, or reduced without providing an opportunity for interested persons to be heard at a public hearing. Notice of the proposed expansion, abolition, merger, consolidation, or reduction of a services district and of the required public hearing shall be published once a week for two weeks in the official newspaper of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County.

(b)(1) The general services district shall consist of the total area of Pulaski County. Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall perform within the general services district those governmental duties, functions, and services which are generally available and accessible to all residents throughout the total area of said government.



(2) The general services district shall constitute a general service tax district within which the board of commissioners shall levy and collect taxes and fees and shall appropriate money to perform and discharge those powers, functions, and services provided in such district.

(c)(1) In addition to the general services district, the board of commissioners may also establish special services districts within which additional or higher levels of services are provided just as cities and counties are so authorized by Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VI of the Constitution. Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall perform within its special services districts such additional, more comprehensive, and higher levels of governmental duties, functions, and services which benefit primarily the residents of such special services districts.

(2) The board of commissioners shall establish a special services district which shall consist of the area of the former City of Hawkinsville, together with any enlargement or modification thereof pursuant to the provisions of this charter. Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall perform within the special services district those additional, more comprehensive and intensive, and higher levels of governmental duties, functions, and services which benefit primarily the residents of such special services district.

(3) Any special services district created by the board of commissioners shall constitute a special services tax district within which the board of commissioners may levy and collect additional taxes and fees and may appropriate additional money from such taxes and fees to perform and discharge those additional powers, functions, and additional services provided in such special services district by the consolidated government.

(d) The assessment of real and personal property for ad valorem tax purposes shall be a uniform basis throughout the entire area of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County; provided, however, that the rate and manner of additional taxation in services districts may vary in any services district from that in another or other services districts in such a way as to reflect reasonably the kind, character, type, degree, and level of services afforded to such services district or districts.

## CHAPTER 2

### Borrowing and indebtedness.

#### **SECTION 7-2-1.**

##### Allocation of indebtedness.

(a) All general indebtedness of Pulaski County, whether represented by general obligation bonds or otherwise, which may be outstanding upon the effective date of this charter shall

be allocated to the general services district as defined in this charter and is hereby recognized as the obligation of the general services district of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia.

(b) All general indebtedness of the City of Hawkinsville, whether represented by general obligation bonds or otherwise, which may be outstanding upon the effective date of this charter shall be allocated to the special services district as defined in this charter and is hereby recognized as the obligation of the special services district of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia.

(c) The annual tax levy ordinances for the general services district and the special services district shall provide, in addition to all other taxes assessed, a tax levy sufficient to pay the principal and interest charges on all outstanding general obligation bonds due or to be paid in the ensuing fiscal year.

(d) The board shall be empowered and authorized to issue revenue bonds for the purposes and in the manner as now or hereafter provided by Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law."

(e) All revenue derived by the consolidated government from the issuance and sale of bonds shall be used exclusively for the purposes for which such bonds were issued, and all ad valorem taxes collected for the purpose of servicing or retiring such bonds shall be used exclusively for the payment of principal and interest thereof.

### CHAPTER 3

#### Financial administration.

#### **SECTION 7-3-1.**

#### Fiscal year; budget; audit.

(a) The fiscal year of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall run from July 1 to June 30.

(b) The board of commissioners of the consolidated government shall adopt an annual budget and provide for an annual audit as provided for in Chapter 81 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A.

(c) The administrator, with input from all department heads, constitutional officers, and other appointed officials of the consolidated government, shall prepare and present the annual budget of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County to the board of commissioners. The commissioners shall have full power and authority to adopt, reject, or amend the proposed budget.

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**SECTION 7-3-2.**

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Lapse of appropriations.

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All unencumbered balances of appropriations in the current operating budget at the end of the fiscal year shall lapse into the unappropriated surplus or reserves of the fund or funds from which such appropriations were made.

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**ARTICLE VIII**

578

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

579

**SECTION 8-1-1.**

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Application of laws; laws in force.

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(a) The general laws of the State of Georgia and those general laws of local application through classification by population shall be applicable to and within the limits of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia.

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(b) Local Acts of the General Assembly of Georgia which apply specifically to either Pulaski County, the City of Hawkinsville, or both shall be applicable to Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia.

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(c) In construing the applicability of provisions of the Constitution and the general laws of Georgia which apply in general terms to either counties, municipalities, or both and local Acts of the General Assembly that apply specifically to Pulaski County, the City of Hawkinsville, or both, the following terms as used in such laws shall be construed to include Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, as follows:

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(1) "County" shall be construed to include Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia;

(2) "City," "town," "municipal corporation," or "municipality" shall be construed to include Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia;

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(3) "Commissioners of roads and revenues," "board of commissioners," "county commissioner," and "commissioner" shall be construed to include the Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville- Pulaski County, Georgia;

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(4) "Council," "mayor and council," "aldermen," "board of aldermen," and the "city commission" shall be construed to include the Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia;

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(5) "Chairman of the commissioners of roads and revenues," "chairman of the board of county commissioners," and "commissioner" shall be construed to include the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia.

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(6) "Mayor" shall be construed to include the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia; and

(7) Any other terms and provisions as used in such Acts to refer specifically to Pulaski County, the City of Hawkinsville, and the officers, employees, departments, and agencies thereof shall be construed to mean Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, and its officers, employees, departments, and agencies.

(d) In construing the applicability of laws in force to Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, the following order shall prevail:

(1) The Constitution of the State of Georgia;

(2) The general laws of uniform application now in force or hereafter enacted by the General Assembly (as distinguished from general laws of local application through classification by population) applicable to municipal corporations, counties, or both;

(3) The general laws of local application through classification by population;

(4) Special laws applicable to Pulaski County not in conflict with this charter;

(5) Special laws applicable to the City of Hawkinsville not in conflict with this charter;

(6) This charter and all ordinances and resolutions passed pursuant thereto; and

(7) Existing ordinances and resolutions of the former City of Hawkinsville and existing ordinances and resolutions of the former Pulaski County not in conflict with this charter.

## **SECTION 8-1-2.**

### **Federal and state aid.**

For the purpose of determining its right to receive and for the purpose of receiving state aid or grant-in-aid from the State of Georgia, the United States, any agency or instrumentality thereof, or any other source, public or private, Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall be deemed a county but shall also be deemed an incorporated municipality. When state aid or other grant-in-aid is distributed to any county or municipality on the basis of population, area, or both, then the entire population and the total area of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County and the population or the area of the special services district or districts, respectively, shall be considered in calculating and determining the basis for such distribution. When state aid or other grant-in-aid is distributed to any county on the basis of rural area, rural road mileage, or rural population, or any combination thereof, then that area of the general services district outside of the special services district shall be deemed to constitute a rural area and its road mileage to constitute rural population.

**SECTION 8-1-3.**

## Examples of powers.

The powers of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following powers:

- (1) Ad valorem taxation: to levy, assess, and collect ad valorem taxes on all taxable property;
- (2) Other taxes: to levy, assess, and collect other taxes allowed by general law and in accordance therewith;
- (3) Business regulation and taxation: to levy, assess, and collect occupational taxes and to license and regulate occupations and businesses. Such taxes may be based on any criteria or combination of criteria permitted by general law;
- (4) Appropriations: to make appropriations and expend funds for support of the consolidated government and any other lawful purposes;
- (5) Debts: to borrow money and issue bonds as authorized by general law;
- (6) Property: to own property and interests in property;
- (7) Gifts: to accept gifts and grants for any purpose related to the powers and duties of the consolidated government on such terms as the donor may impose;
- (8) Condemnation: to condemn property inside the consolidated government for present or future use;
- (9) Public utilities: to acquire, lease, operate, and dispose of public utilities;
- (10) Franchises: to grant franchises or make contracts for public utilities and to prescribe the conditions of such franchises and contracts;
- (11) Roadways: to open, maintain, improve, and close streets and roads and to grant franchises and rights-of-way thereon;
- (12) Public facilities: to acquire, operate, and dispose of public buildings, public projects, parks, cemeteries, recreational facilities, and other public improvements inside the consolidated government;
- (13) Building regulation: to regulate the building trades and the construction of buildings and to adopt and enforce building, housing, plumbing, electrical, gas, heating, and air conditioning codes;
- (14) Planning and zoning: to adopt land use plans and exercise the power of zoning and subdivision regulation;
- (15) Police power: to exercise the police power for the public safety and well-being of the citizens of the consolidated government;
- (16) Roadside regulation: to prohibit or regulate signs, billboards, and other items upon or adjacent to streets and roads;

- 672 (17) Health: to prescribe and enforce health and sanitation standards;  
673 (18) Pollution: to regulate emissions which pollute the air and water;  
674 (19) Fire safety: to fix fire limits and prescribe and enforce fire safety regulations;  
675 (20) Public hazards: to provide for the destruction or removal of public hazards;  
676 (21) Waste disposal: to provide for and regulate the collection, disposal, and recycling  
677 of garbage and wastes;  
678 (22) Water and sewer fees: to fix and collect water and sewer fees;  
679 (23) Garbage fees: to fix and collect garbage fees;  
680 (24) Nuisances: to define and provide for the abatement of nuisances;  
681 (25) Property protection: to preserve and protect the property of the consolidated  
682 government;  
683 (26) Prisoners: to provide for public work by prisoners and for their confinement;  
684 (27) Animal control: to regulate or prohibit the keeping of animals;  
685 (28) Motor vehicles: to regulate the operation and parking of motor vehicles;  
686 (29) Pensions: to provide and maintain a system of pensions and retirement for  
687 employees and officers of the consolidated government;  
688 (30) Special assessments: to levy, assess, and collect special assessments to cover the  
689 cost of public improvements;  
690 (31) Contracts: to enter into lawful contracts and agreements;  
691 (32) Agencies: to create, alter, or abolish departments, boards, offices, commissioners,  
692 authorities, and agencies of the consolidated government and to confer appropriate  
693 authority upon them;  
694 (33) Penalties: to provide penalties for violations of ordinances of the consolidated  
695 government;  
696 (34) Law enforcement and fire protection: to exercise the power of arrest through  
697 certified law enforcement officers and to operate a fire department;  
698 (35) Emergencies: to provide for the determination, proclamation, and combating of  
699 emergencies;  
700 (36) Urban redevelopment: to organize and operate an urban redevelopment program;  
701 and  
702 (37) General health, safety, and welfare: to define, regulate, and prohibit any act,  
703 practice, conduct, or use of property which is detrimental to the health, sanitation,  
704 cleanliness, welfare, and safety of the inhabitants of the consolidated government.

705 **SECTION 8-1-4.**

706 Effect of repeals.

707 No law heretofore repealed, expressly or by implication, shall be revived by the repeal herein  
708 of the repealing Act or by any provision of this charter that disclaims an intention to repeal  
709 or affect enumerated laws.

710 **SECTION 8-1-5.**

711 Severability clause.

712 If any provision of this charter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is  
713 held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this charter  
714 which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the  
715 provisions of this charter are declared to be severable.

716 **SECTION 8-1-6.**

717 Repeal of conflicting laws.

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

719 **SECTION 8-1-7.**

720 Tort and nuisance liability.

721 The tort and nuisance liability of the consolidated government shall follow the law and rules  
722 of the tort liability applicable to counties in Georgia.

723 **ARTICLE IX**

724 **TRANSITION PROVISIONS**

725 **SECTION 9-1-1.**

726 Election of first officials.

727 (a) The first Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall be  
728 elected as provided in Section 6-1-2 of this charter; provided, however, that if passage of this  
729 charter by referendum shall occur on a date later than allows for election of the first members  
730 such that they may assume office on January 1, 2015, elections shall be held on the first  
731 legally allowable date following passage of the charter by referendum. The chairperson and

commissioners so elected shall serve terms as defined in Section 2-1-3 of this charter, except that said terms shall expire as if they began on January 1, 2015.

(b) The election and any subsequent run-off shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code." After final approval of this charter, the superintendent of elections shall prepare a list of qualified voters for each of the four commissioner districts described in Section 6-2-1 of this charter.

(c) The qualifications for office for such initial election shall be as prescribed by subsection (b) of Section 2-1-3 of this charter.

(d) Any elected official of Pulaski County or of the City of Hawkinsville who is otherwise qualified under this charter shall be entitled to qualify and run for office of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County.

#### **SECTION 9-1-2.**

Initial terms of office.

All commissioners shall be elected for initial terms of office as set forth in Section 2-1-3 of this charter and shall thereafter be elected to four-year terms of office and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

#### **SECTION 9-1-3.**

Provision of services during transition.

In order to consolidate the two governments and to assure the common and continued administration of services currently provided by both the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County, on the effective date of consolidation, all services currently provided by the county shall be provided through the general services district to all residents of the county and all services provided by the city shall be provided through the special services district to the current residents of the City of Hawkinsville. Assuming the continued availability of state and federal funds, these services arrangements shall apply until modified by the board of commissioners.

#### **SECTION 9-1-4.**

Existing employees.

No person employed by either the City of Hawkinsville or Pulaski County shall be terminated solely as a result of the consolidation of the city and county.



**SECTION 9-1-5.**

Effective date of charter.

This charter shall become effective January 1, 2015, or upon the election of the board of commissioners and their taking office as the governing authority of the consolidated government, if the same shall occur after January 1, 2015.

**SECTION 9-1-6.**

Initial budget.

(a) The initial budget of the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, government for the period of time from the effective date of the government to the beginning of its first full fiscal year on July 1 shall be equal to the sum of the budget then in place for the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County, prorated to said period of time.

(b)(1) The first 12 month budget of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, beginning July 1 following the effective date of the consolidated government and ending June 30 of the next year, shall be limited to a combined amount equal to the final 12 month budgets of the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County for their respective preceding fiscal years.

(2) This initial budget limitation shall not apply to any increases needed to satisfy any new, unfunded state or federal mandates, expenses caused by the occurrence of a natural disaster, increases needed to fund any step raises due employees of the consolidated government, or increases needed to keep up with inflation as specified by the United States Consumer Price Index.

**SECTION 9-1-7.**

Number of employees.

For the first 12 month period after the effective date of this charter, the total number of employees of the consolidated government shall not exceed the combined number of employees authorized for the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County immediately prior to the effective date of this charter, except as otherwise specifically mandated by law.

**SECTION 9-1-8.**

## Cooperation of former governments.

(a) All officers, officials, and employees of the former City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County shall cooperate with and assist the board of commissioners, the administrator, and other officers of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia:

(1) In planning the consolidation of departments, boards, commissions, and agencies of said former governments and in transferring the functions, duties, and responsibilities of such departments, boards, commissions, authorities, and agencies to the appropriate agencies of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia; and

(2) In all other respects in order that the transfer of the governments be accomplished in the most orderly manner possible. The officers of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County shall be entitled to examine all records, files, and other data in the possession of the former governments and all officers, officials, employees, and departments thereof.

(b) A schedule for activity during the transition period is contained in the appendix attached to and made a part of this charter.

**SECTION 9-1-9.**

## Existing ordinances and resolutions continued in effect.

(a) Existing ordinances and resolutions of Pulaski County and existing rules and regulations of county departments or agencies not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter shall continue in effect as ordinances, resolutions, rules, or regulations of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, or the appropriate department or agency thereof until they have been repealed, modified, or amended. However, if there is a conflict between existing ordinances and resolutions of Pulaski County and rules and regulations of county departments or agencies and existing ordinances and resolutions of the City of Hawkinsville and rules and regulations of city departments or agencies, those of Pulaski County shall only apply to the area of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, which lies outside the special services district.

(b) Existing ordinances and resolutions of the City of Hawkinsville and existing rules and regulations of city departments or agencies not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter shall continue in effect as ordinances and resolutions of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, and shall apply only to the area included within the special services district until they have been repealed, modified, or amended.

(c) In the event of a conflict between any of the ordinances or resolutions continued by this section, the provisions thereof shall apply only to that territory of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County to which such ordinance or resolution applied prior to the effective date of this

823 charter and until such ordinance or resolution is repealed, changed, or amended to eliminate  
824 the conflict.

825 (d) Within 24 months of the effective date of the charter, the board of commissioners shall  
826 have reviewed all ordinances and resolutions and shall take whatever action is necessary to  
827 remove any conflicts continued by this section in order to produce a uniform body of  
828 ordinances and resolutions which is free of any conflicts and contradictions between such  
829 provisions.

#### 830 **SECTION 9-1-10.**

##### 831 **Contracts and obligations.**

832 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all contracts, orders, leases, bonds, and  
833 other obligations or instruments entered into by Pulaski County or the City of Hawkinsville  
834 or for the benefit of either the county or the city prior to the effective date of this charter shall  
835 continue in effect according to the terms thereof as obligations and rights of  
836 Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia; provided, however, that any obligations created by  
837 Pulaski County or the City of Hawkinsville to become effective after the date of approval of  
838 this charter and prior to the effective date of this charter shall be subject to ratification and  
839 approval by the Board of Commissioners of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, within  
840 six months following the effective date of this charter.

841 (b) No pending action or proceeding of any nature, whether civil, criminal, judicial,  
842 administrative, or other, by or against the City of Hawkinsville or Pulaski County or an  
843 agency or department thereof shall be abated or otherwise affected by the adoption of this  
844 charter, and Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, shall stand substituted as a party in lieu  
845 thereof.

#### 846 **SECTION 9-1-11.**

##### 847 **Dissolution of existing governments.**

848 (a) On the effective date of this charter, the charter of the City of Hawkinsville, approved  
849 April 4, 1991 (Ga. L. 1991, p. 4711), as amended, is repealed in its entirety.

850 (b) On the effective date of this charter, the office of Sole Commissioners of Pulaski County  
851 and the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville and all the officers thereof and  
852 the offices thereof not continued under this charter are abolished, and all emoluments  
853 appertaining thereto shall cease. Thereupon the governments of Pulaski County and the City  
854 of Hawkinsville shall terminate as separate political entities and all powers, functions, duties,

855 and obligations thereof shall be transferred to and vested in Hawkinsville-Pulaski County,  
856 Georgia.

857 **SECTION 9-1-12.**

858 Transfer of records and equipment.

859 When an agency of the City of Hawkinsville or of Pulaski County is abolished or  
860 consolidated by this charter, all books, papers, maps, charts, plans, records, other equipment,  
861 and personal property in possession of the same shall be delivered to the agency to which its  
862 rights, powers, duties, and obligations are transferred.

863 **SECTION 9-1-13.**

864 Officers serve until successors qualify.

865 Notwithstanding any other provision of this charter, any officer performing duties under the  
866 government of the City of Hawkinsville or Pulaski County shall continue to perform the  
867 duties thereof until a successor, whether under the same title or office or another, shall be  
868 elected or appointed and qualified to perform the duties. It is the intention hereof that no  
869 duty or services shall lapse or be abandoned because of the lack of an officer to perform said  
870 duties.

871 **SECTION 9-1-14.**

872 Submission to and changes required by the United States Department of Justice.

873 The charter shall be submitted to the United States Department of Justice by the governments  
874 of the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County within 30 days of approval by the Governor  
875 or its becoming law without such approval. In order to ensure that a referendum on the  
876 question of the creation of Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, will be held on the earliest  
877 possible date, the General Assembly, as provided in Article IX, Section III, Paragraph II(a)  
878 of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, hereby constitutes the members of the Pulaski  
879 County legislative delegation as a legislatively created charter commission and grants it the  
880 power to amend the charter to satisfy any required changes raised by the United States  
881 Department of Justice. This legislatively created charter commission shall seek and accept  
882 the assistance of the members of the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Consolidation  
883 Commission in fulfilling its responsibilities under this section.

**SECTION 9-1-15.**

## Referendum on the charter.

(a) As soon as practicable after receipt of the certified copy of the proposed charter and after receipt of approval from the United States Department of Justice for a referendum on the proposed charter, it shall be the duty of the superintendent of elections of Pulaski County to call a special election for approval or rejection of the proposed charter. If possible, such special election shall be called for on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November, 2013. The superintendent of elections shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two calendar weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official legal organ of Pulaski County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the following:

"( ) YES Shall the charter reorganizing and fully consolidating the governments of the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County into a single government be ( ) NO approved?"

(b) All persons desiring to vote for approval of the charter shall vote "Yes," and those persons desiring to vote for rejection of the charter shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast by the qualified voters of Pulaski County residing within the corporate limits of the City of Hawkinsville are for approval of the charter and if more than one-half of the total number of votes cast by all the qualified voters of Pulaski County are for approval of the charter, then the charter shall become effective. Otherwise, it shall be void and of no force and effect. The expense of such election shall be borne equally by the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County.

(c) The special election shall be conducted pursuant to Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

(d) A qualified voter, as used in this Act, shall mean a voter of Pulaski County qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly of Georgia. The superintendent of elections shall certify the returns to the Secretary of State. The superintendent of elections shall also furnish a certified copy of the charter to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall issue a proclamation showing and declaring the result of the election on the approval or rejection of the charter. One copy of the proclamation shall be attached to the copy of the charter certified to the Secretary of State. One copy of the proclamation shall be delivered to the clerk of the governing authority of the City of Hawkinsville who shall attach the same to the copy of the charter previously certified to him or her. One copy of the proclamation shall be delivered to the clerk of the governing authority of Pulaski County who shall attach the same to the copy of the charter previously certified to him or her.

919 (e) Whenever a charter for the consolidation of the governments of the City of Hawkinsville  
920 and Pulaski County has been accepted, the certified copies pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
921 section, with the proclamation of the Secretary of State attached thereto, shall be deemed  
922 duplicate original copies of the charter for all purposes. The certified copy of the charter and  
923 proclamation deposited with the clerk of the governing authority of the City of Hawkinsville  
924 and the certified copy of the charter and proclamation deposited with the clerk of the  
925 governing authority of Pulaski County shall subsequently be delivered by them to the  
926 successor government. The successor government may issue certified copies of the charter,  
927 and any copy so certified shall be deemed a duplicate original copy of the charter for all  
928 purposes. The Secretary of State is authorized to issue certified copies of the charter on file,  
929 and copies so certified shall be deemed duplicate original copies of the charter of  
930 Hawkinsville-Pulaski County, Georgia, for all purposes.

## 931 APPENDIX

### 932 Transition plan and schedule.

933 The following transition plan shall govern the implementation of this Act:

#### 934 Stage 1: Referendum on charter until initial election.

935 (a) Upon approval of the consolidation, a transition team shall be formed. The transition  
936 team shall be appointed and charged with anticipating implementation responsibilities,  
937 issues, and opportunities related to the consolidation of the two governments. Their efforts  
938 will involve collecting data, assembling facts, and presenting options to the officials of  
939 Hawkinsville-Pulaski County when they take office. The transition team shall not have any  
940 decision-making power and shall serve in an advisory function to the new government only  
941 until such time as the newly elected officials assume the responsibilities described in Stage 2  
942 of this appendix.

943 (b) The transition team shall consist of: the city manager; the attorney of either the City of  
944 Hawkinsville or Pulaski County; the certified public accountant of either the City of  
945 Hawkinsville or Pulaski County; one member of the Board of Commissioners of the City of  
946 Hawkinsville; one appointee of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville who  
947 shall not be an elected official or employee of the City of Hawkinsville; the Sole  
948 Commissioner of Pulaski County; and one appointee of the Sole Commissioner of Pulaski  
949 County who shall not be an elected official or employee of Pulaski County. The chairperson  
950 of the transition team will be elected by and from the transition team members.



District 001  
Pulaski County  
VTD: 235EAST - EAST PRECINCT

950100:  
1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011  
1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017  
That portion of block 1018 excluding any incarcerated population assigned  
to such block  
1019 1020 1021 1025 1026 1027  
VTD: 235NORTH - NORTH PRECINCT  
950200:  
1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011  
1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023  
1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035  
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1096 1097 1098 1099 1100 1101 1102 1103 1104 1111 1112 1113  
1114 1115 1116 1117 1118 1119 1120 1121 1122

District 002  
Pulaski County  
VTD: 235NORTH - NORTH PRECINCT

950200:  
3041 3042 5000 6000 6001 6002 6003 6004 6005 6006 6007 6008  
6009 6010 6011 6012 6013 6014 6015 6016 6017 6018 6019 6020  
6066 6067 6068 6078 6079 6080 6081 6082  
950300:  
1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1189 1190 1191  
VTD: 235SOUTH - SOUTH PRECINCT  
950200:  
5012 5014 5015 5016 5017 5018 5019 5020 5021 5027 5028 5029  
5030 5031 5032 5033 5040 5041 5042 5045 5046 5047 5048 5049  
5050 5051 5052 5053 5054 5055 5056 5057 5058 5059 5060 5061  
5062 5063 5064 5065 5066 5067 5068 5069 5070 5071 5072 5073  
5074 6021 6022 6023 6024 6025 6026 6027 6028 6029 6030 6039  
6040 6041 6042 6051 6052 6053  
950300:  
1011 1013 1014 1015 1016 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028  
1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040  
1041 1042 1043 1044 1045 1046 1047 1048 1049 1050 1051 1052  
1053 1054 1056 1062 1063 1064 1065 1066 1067 1068 1069 1070  
1071 1072 1073 1074 1075 1076 1077 1078 1079 1080 1081 1084  
1116 1122 1172 1173 1174 1175 1176 1177 1178 1179 1180 1181  
1182 1183 1184 1185 1186 1193

District 003  
Pulaski County  
VTD: 235EAST - EAST PRECINCT

950100:  
1023 1024 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037  
1038 1040 1042 1043 1044 1045 1046 1047 2010 2011 2012 2013  
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028  
2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040  
2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052  
2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064  
2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076  
2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083  
VTD: 235SOUTH - SOUTH PRECINCT  
950200:  
4006 4007 4008 4009 4014 4015 4016 4019 4025 4026 4028 4029  
4032 4033 4034 4035 4036 4037 4038 4039 4040 4041 4043 4044  
4045 4046 4048 6031 6032 6033 6034 6035 6036 6037 6038 6043  
6044 6045 6046 6047 6048 6049 6050 6054 6055 6056 6057 6058  
6059 6060 6061 6062 6063 6064 6065 6069 6070 6071 6072 6073  
6074 6075 6076 6077 6083  
950300:  
1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1012  
1055 1057 1058 1059 1060 1061 1082 1083 1085 1086 1087 1088  
1089 1090 1091 1092 1093 1094 1095 1096 1097 1098 1099 1100  
1101 1102 1103 1104 1105 1106 1107 1108 1109 1110 1111 1112  
1113 1114 1115 1117 1118 1119 1120 1121 1123 1124 1125 1126  
1127 1128 1129 1130 1131 1132 1133 1134 1135 1136 1137 1138  
1139 1140 1141 1142 1143 1144 1145 1146 1147 1148 1149 1150  
1151 1152 1153 1154 1155 1156 1157 1158 1159 1160 1161 1162  
1163 1164 1165 1166 1167 1168 1169 1170 1171 1187 1188 1192



District 004  
Pulaski County  
VTD: 235EAST - EAST PRECINCT  
950100:  
1022 1039 1041 1048 1049 1050 1051 1052 1053 1054 1055 1056  
1057 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2020  
2021 2022 2077  
VTD: 235NORTH - NORTH PRECINCT  
950200:  
1076 1077 1078 1082 1083 1084 1085 1090 1092 1093 1094 1095  
1105 1106 1107 1108 1109 1110 1123 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004  
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016  
2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 3000 3001 3002 3003 3004  
3005 3006 3007 3008 3009 3010 3011 3012 3013 3014 3015 3016  
3017 3018 3019 3020 3021 3022 3023 3024 3025 3026 3027 3028  
3029 3030 3031 3032 3033 3034 3035 3036 3037 3038 3039 3040  
3043 5001 5002 5003 5004 5005 5006 5007 5008 5009 5010 5011  
5013 5022 5023 5024 5025 5026 5034 5035 5036 5037 5038 5039  
5043 5044  
VTD: 235SOUTH - SOUTH PRECINCT  
950200:  
4000 4001 4002 4003 4004 4005 4010 4011 4012 4013 4017 4018  
4020 4021 4022 4023 4024 4027 4030 4031 4042 4047 4049