

House Bill 995

By: Representative Pruett of the 149<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act entitled "An Act to reincorporate the City of Scotland, Georgia," approved  
2 March 24, 1988 (Ga. L. 1988, p. 4314), so as to provide for four-year terms for the mayor  
3 and councilmembers; to provide for initial terms; to provide for elections; to repeal  
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 An Act entitled "An Act to reincorporate the City of Scotland, Georgia," approved March 24,  
8 1988 (Ga. L. 1988, p. 4314), is amended by revising Section 2.02 as follows:

9 "SECTION 2.02.

10 Terms of office and limitations thereon.

11 (a) Mayor; term of office. The term of office of the mayor of the City of Scotland shall  
12 begin at the first regular meeting of the council in January next succeeding his election and  
13 shall continue for four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, and  
14 there shall be no limitation preventing succession.

15 (b) City council; terms of office. The terms of office for members of the city council shall  
16 begin at the first regular meeting of the council in January next succeeding their election  
17 and shall continue for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified, and  
18 there shall be no limitation preventing succession."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Said Act is further amended by revising Article V as follows:

21 "ARTICLE V  
 22 ELECTIONS  
 23 SECTION 5.01.

24 (a) All elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of  
 25 the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code,' as now or hereafter amended.

26 (b) Political parties shall not conduct primaries for city offices and all names of candidates  
 27 for city offices shall be listed without party designations as provided in Code Section  
 28 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A.

29 (c) All elections for mayor and all councilmembers shall be at-large by the voters of the  
 30 entire city.

31 SECTION 5.02.

32 Qualifications for mayor and councilmembers.

33 To be eligible for the office of mayor or councilmember, elected or appointed, a person  
 34 must meet the qualifications for members of the state House of Representatives as  
 35 prescribed in Article III, Section VI, Paragraph I of the state Constitution, as now or  
 36 hereafter amended; must meet the requirements of a qualified elector for members of the  
 37 General Assembly, as prescribed by general law; must be a registered voter of the City of  
 38 Scotland; and must be a bona fide resident of the City of Scotland for at least one year next  
 39 preceding the election in which he or she offers as a candidate. Further, no candidate shall  
 40 be allowed to qualify for any office in said city who owes to said city any delinquent taxes,  
 41 fees, charges, or assessments of any kind or nature.

42 SECTION 5.03.

43 Elections for the members of the mayor and council shall be conducted 'at-large'; provided,  
 44 however, candidates for council shall qualify for a numbered post, Post 1 through Post 4,  
 45 without any district or residency requirement. All qualified electors residing within the city  
 46 may vote for candidates in any city elections.

47 SECTION 5.04.

48 The two councilmembers who are elected to a two-year term in the municipal general  
 49 election conducted in November, 2014, shall serve terms of one year and until their  
 50 successors are duly elected and qualified. Thereafter, the mayor and four councilmembers  
 51 shall be elected at the nonpartisan general election 2015 and shall serve terms of four years

52 and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The mayor and councilmembers  
53 shall be elected by plurality vote."

54 **SECTION 3.**

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