

House Bill 995 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Pruett of the 149th

**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.