

Senate Bill 6

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Beach of the 21st, Shafer of the 48th, Cowsert of the 46th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 commissions and other agencies, so as to create the Georgia Regional Transit Council; to
3 provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to provide for the membership,
4 powers, and duties of the council; to provide for a report and proposal by the council; to
5 provide for assignment of the council to the Department of Transportation for administrative
6 purposes; to provide for compensation and expenses; to provide for contingent automatic
7 repeal; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 The intent of this article is to establish a council for the purpose of developing a state-wide,
11 strategic transit plan with the guidance of a recognized industry leader in delivering transit
12 strategy for multijurisdictional entities which emphasizes first-mile and last-mile services,
13 the development of a seamless transportation network with dependable trip times for
14 commuters, the enhancement of limited access highways, road congestion relief, safety
15 enhancements, and plans for a future of transportation innovations.

16 SECTION 2.

17 Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commissions
18 and other agencies, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

19 "ARTICLE 9

20 50-12-140.

21 As used in this article, the term:

22 (1) 'Council' means the Georgia Regional Transit Council created pursuant to Code
23 Section 50-12-141.

24 (2) 'Metropolitan planning organization' means the policy board of an organization
 25 created and designated to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process as
 26 defined in 23 C.F.R. Section 450.

27 (3) 'Transit agency' means any public agency, public corporation, or public authority
 28 authorized by any general, special, or local law to provide any type of transit services
 29 within any area of this state.

30 (4) 'Transit services' means the publicly accessible land based transportation of
 31 passengers and their incidental baggage by any means other than privately owned or
 32 operated motor vehicles for hire.

33 50-12-141.

34 (a) There is created a Georgia Regional Transit Council, which shall be composed of the
 35 following members:

36 (1) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

37 (2) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
 38 House of Representatives;

39 (3) The commissioner of transportation;

40 (4) The executive director of the State Road and Tollway Authority;

41 (5) The chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority;

42 (6) The executive director of the Georgia Transportation Alliance;

43 (7) The chairperson of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners;

44 (8) The chairperson of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners;

45 (9) The chairperson of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners;

46 (10) The chairperson of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners;

47 (11) The chairperson of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners;

48 (12) The chairperson of the board for the Augusta metropolitan planning organization;

49 (13) The chairperson of the board for the Columbus metropolitan planning organization;

50 (14) The chairperson of the board for the Macon metropolitan planning organization; and

51 (15) The chairperson of the board for the Savannah metropolitan planning organization.

52 (b) Vacancies in the council shall be filled by appointment in the manner of the original
 53 appointment.

54 (c) No business other than that necessary to establish the council may be conducted until
 55 all members have been appointed. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
 56 House of Representatives shall designate cochairpersons from their appointments, and the
 57 cochairpersons shall convene the first meeting of the council within 30 days after the
 58 effective date of this article.

59 50-12-142.

60 The council shall:

61 (a) Establish a vision, mission, and goals for transit services and define objectives,
62 performance metrics, and performance targets to execute such vision and mission and meet
63 such goals. The vision, mission, goals, objectives, performance metrics, and performance
64 targets shall be finalized and shall be submitted to the Governor, the House Committee on
65 Transportation, and the Senate Transportation Committee no later than December 31, 2018;

66 (b) Develop a long-term capital investment strategy for transit services, including a
67 prioritization of investments based on achieving the goals, objectives, and performance
68 targets as established by the council;

69 (c) Assess and develop methods for planning projects between and among federal, state,
70 and local governments and authorities charged with planning responsibilities for such
71 purposes by state or federal law;

72 (d) Develop a strategic plan for this state's transit services that emphasizes creating
73 efficiency and coordination by offering solutions to improve arterial mobility, develop
74 alternative freight routes, and plan for a future of transportation innovations. The strategic
75 plan shall be finalized and made available to the public by December 31, 2018; provided,
76 however, that with approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
77 President of the Senate, the council may continue its development until December 31,
78 2019, at which time its strategic plan shall be published.

79 (e) Compile and analyze data and information reporting on performance metrics from
80 transit operators in this state;

81 (f) Establish performance targets and create a performance report of transit operators in
82 this state which shall provide analysis and recommendations regarding transit operators'
83 efficiency and cost effectiveness, coordination of operations, customer service, technology
84 solutions, privatization opportunities, safety and security, and return on investment. Such
85 report shall be submitted to the Governor, the House Committee on Transportation, and the
86 Senate Transportation Committee no later than December 31, 2018; provided, however,
87 that with approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the
88 Senate, the council may continue its planning until December 31, 2019, at which time the
89 performance targets and report shall be published;

90 (g) Establish guidelines and investment policies regarding the use of federal funds by
91 transit operators which shall include the consideration of transit operators' prior
92 performance on metrics and targets; and

93 (h) Establish a united branding and marketing strategy for transit operators.

94 50-12-143.

95 (a) The council may hold public hearings, procure services from professionals in the field
 96 of transit services, conduct research, receive the testimony of experts, review the
 97 coordination of transit agencies and transit services provided by other states, and take such
 98 other actions the council determines appropriate for the completion of its assigned task.

99 (b) Any professionals retained by the council to assist in analysis required pursuant to this
 100 article shall be professionals in the field of transit services with global or national
 101 prominence for:

- 102 (1) Experience working with multiple transit governance or organizational structures;
 103 (2) Experience delivering transit strategy for multijurisdictional or state-wide entities;
 104 (3) Strong financial consulting practices that have experience with multiple transit
 105 funding or financial approaches;
 106 (4) Approaches to promoting economic development; and
 107 (5) Demonstrated knowledge and proven experience in strategic development.

108 50-12-144.

109 (a) The council shall be assigned to the Department of Transportation for administrative
 110 purposes only, as prescribed in Code Section 50-4-3.

111 (b)(1) The legislative members of the council shall receive the allowances provided for
 112 in Code Section 28-1-8.

113 (2) Members of the council who are state or local government officials, other than
 114 legislative members, or state or local government employees shall receive no
 115 compensation for their services on the council, but they may be reimbursed for expenses
 116 incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the council in the same
 117 manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state or local
 118 government officials or state or local government employees.

119 (3) Members of the council who are not legislators, state or local government officials,
 120 or state or local government employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an
 121 amount the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21, as well as
 122 the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees.

123 (4) Funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state or local government officials,
 124 other than legislative members, and state or local government employees shall come from
 125 funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective governments,
 126 departments, authorities, or agencies.

127 (5) Funds for the employment of providers of professional services reasonably necessary
 128 to complete the duties required of the council and to aid the council in its legislative

129 recommendations to the General Assembly shall come from funds appropriated for such
130 purpose to the State Road and Tollway Authority.

131 50-12-145.

132 This article shall be automatically repealed, and the council shall be abolished, on
133 January 1, 2019; provided, however, that if the council is continued for an additional year
134 pursuant to subsection (d) or (f) of Code Section 50-12-142, this article shall be
135 automatically repealed, and the council shall be abolished, on January 1, 2020."

136 **SECTION 3.**

137 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
138 without such approval.

139 **SECTION 4.**

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