

Senate Bill 244

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Dade County Water and Sewer Authority, approved  
2 March 25, 1958 (Ga. L. 1958, p. 3260), as amended, particularly by an Act approved  
3 May 11, 2010 (Ga. L. 2010, p. 3535), so as to provide for the composition of the authority;  
4 to provide for the terms of office for members of the authority; to provide for vacancies; to  
5 provide for certain duties of the authority; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating the Dade County Water and Sewer Authority, approved March 25, 1958  
10 (Ga. L. 1958, p. 3260), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 11, 2010 (Ga.  
11 L. 2010, p. 3535), is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

12 **"SECTION 2.**

13 (a) There is hereby created a body corporate and politic to be known as the Dade County  
14 Water and Sewer Authority, which shall be deemed to be a political subdivision of the  
15 State of Georgia and a public corporation, and by that name, style, and title, such body may  
16 contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain  
17 and defend in all courts of law and equity. The authority shall consist of five members who  
18 shall be appointed and serve as provided in this section.

19 (b) The terms of the members of the authority in office on the effective date of this Act  
20 shall terminate on the effective date of this Act.

21 (c) On the effective date of this Act, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the City  
22 Commission of the City of Trenton shall appoint one member to serve on such authority  
23 by a majority vote of the city commission. The governing authority of Dade County shall  
24 appoint four members to serve on such authority. Each district commissioner of the county  
25 governing authority shall nominate one person from such commissioner's district to serve

26 on the authority, and the county governing authority shall ratify such nomination by  
 27 majority vote of the county governing authority. The initial appointment by the city  
 28 commission shall serve an initial term of office beginning on the date of his or her  
 29 appointment and ending December 31, 2020. The initial appointment by the county  
 30 governing authority from District 1 shall serve an initial term of office beginning on the  
 31 date of his or her appointment and ending December 31, 2021. The initial appointment by  
 32 the county governing authority from District 2 shall serve an initial term of office  
 33 beginning on the date of his or her appointment and ending December 31, 2022. The initial  
 34 appointment by the county governing authority from District 3 shall serve an initial term  
 35 of office beginning on the date of his or her appointment and ending December 31, 2023.  
 36 The initial appointment by the county governing authority from District 4 shall serve an  
 37 initial term of office beginning on the date of his or her appointment and ending  
 38 December 31, 2024. Thereafter, appointments shall be made not more than 60 days prior  
 39 to the expiration of the term of office of a member of the authority, by nomination by the  
 40 city commission for the city appointee, by a majority vote of the city commission, or by the  
 41 commissioner of the county governing authority in whose district the member whose term  
 42 is expiring resides and ratification by a majority of the county governing authority for the  
 43 county governing authority appointees. Such successors to the initial members under this  
 44 subsection shall serve terms of office of five years and until a successor is appointed and  
 45 qualified.

46 (d) Those persons not eligible to serve on the authority shall include:

- 47 (1) County or city elected officials;
  - 48 (2) County or city employees;
  - 49 (3) Dade County Water and Sewer Authority employees; and
  - 50 (4) Spouses, siblings, or children of those individuals disqualified in this subsection.
- 51 Members of the authority shall be and must remain residents of the city if a city  
 52 appointee, or of the county governing authority districts from which they were appointed  
 53 if a county appointee, during their terms of office, or such offices shall be declared  
 54 vacant.

55 (e) The seat of any member of the authority who is absent without being excused by the  
 56 chairperson for two or more consecutive meetings of the authority shall be declared vacant  
 57 by the appointing authority.

58 (f) The city may remove from office the city appointee for cause upon a majority vote of  
 59 the city commission, and the county may remove from office any of the county appointees  
 60 for cause upon a majority vote of the county board of commissioners.

61 (g) A vacancy on the authority shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term of  
 62 office in the same manner as appointment to the authority was made by the city or county

63 governing authority, depending upon whether the vacancy is of the city member or a  
64 county member of the authority.

65 (h) The members of the authority shall elect from among their number a chairperson and  
66 vice chairperson and may elect a secretary and a treasurer who need not necessarily be  
67 members of the authority. Three members of the authority shall constitute a quorum. No  
68 vacancy on the authority shall impair the right of the quorum to exercise all the rights and  
69 perform all of the duties of the authority. The chairperson of the authority shall be a full  
70 voting member, entitled to vote on any issue, motion, question, or resolution. Three  
71 affirmative votes shall be required to transact any business of the authority.

72 (i) The members of the authority shall receive such compensation for their services as set  
73 by a duly approved resolution of the authority. All members shall be reimbursed for their  
74 actual and reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The  
75 authority shall make rules and regulation for its own governance. It shall have perpetual  
76 existence."

77 **SECTION 2.**

78 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Section 24A as follows:

79 "(b) The authority shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the  
80 O.C.G.A., relating to open and public meetings, and Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of  
81 the O.C.G.A., relating to inspection of public records. The authority shall have regularly  
82 scheduled monthly meetings to be held at the Dade County Commission meeting rooms  
83 and at such times as designated by the authority. Special meetings of the authority may be  
84 called by the chairperson or by a majority of authority members."

85 **SECTION 3.**

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