

House Bill 688

By: Representatives Belton of the 112th, Welch of the 110th, Rutledge of the 109th, and Dickerson of the 113th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to incorporate and to grant a new charter to the City of Covington,
2 approved January 30, 1962 (Ga. L. 1962, p. 2003), as amended, particularly by an Act
3 approved April 18, 1967 (Ga. L. 1967, p. 3157), so as to provide for term limits for the
4 governing authority of such municipality; to provide for a referendum; to provide for
5 contingent effective dates; to provide for automatic repeal under certain circumstances; to
6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act to incorporate and to grant a new charter to the City of Covington, approved January
10 30, 1962 (Ga. L. 1962, p. 2003), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 18, 1967
11 (Ga. L. 1967, p. 3157), is amended in subsection (a) of Section 2.03 by adding a new
12 paragraph to read as follows:

13 "(7) He or she shall not have served as mayor or as a city councilperson for more than
14 four consecutive four-year terms of office, not including any partial term of office. No
15 terms of office commenced prior to January 1, 2019, shall be considered in determining
16 if a person has served more than four consecutive four-year terms of office."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 The election superintendent of the City of Covington shall call and conduct an election as
19 provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of the City of
20 Covington for approval or rejection. The election superintendent shall conduct such election
21 on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2019, and shall issue the call and
22 conduct such election as provided by general law. The election superintendent shall cause
23 the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately
24 preceding the date thereof in the official organ of the City of Covington. The ballot shall
25 have written or printed thereon the words:

26 "() YES Shall the Act be approved which limits the terms of the members of the
 27 () NO governing authority of the City of Covington to no more than four
 28 consecutive four-year terms of office, not including any partial term of
 29 office?"

30 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring
 31 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on
 32 such question are for approval of the Act, then Section 1 of this Act shall become effective
 33 upon approval of such Act by the voters in 2019. If more than one-half of the votes cast on
 34 such question are for rejection of the Act or if the election is not held as provided in this
 35 section, then Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective and this Act shall be
 36 automatically repealed upon the rejection of such Act by the voters in 2019. The expense
 37 of such election shall be borne by the City of Covington. It shall be the election
 38 superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

39 **SECTION 3.**

40 This Act shall become effective only if a bill to create a new charter for the City of
 41 Covington introduced at the 2019 session of the General Assembly does not become law.
 42 If such bill does become law upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 43 without such approval, then this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed on
 44 January 1, 2020.

45 **SECTION 4.**

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