

House Bill 739

By: Representative Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Blue Ridge in Fannin County,  
2 approved March 21, 1989 (Ga. L. 1989, p. 3823), as amended, so as to provide for staggered  
3 terms of the mayor and councilmembers; to revise provisions regarding the filling of  
4 vacancies on the governing authority; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act to provide a new charter for the City of Blue Ridge in Fannin County, approved  
9 March 21, 1989 (Ga. L. 1989, p. 3823), as amended, is amended by revising subsection (b)  
10 of Section 2.10 as follows:

11 "(b) The mayor and councilmembers shall serve for staggered terms of four years and until  
12 their respective successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to serve  
13 as mayor or councilmember unless he or she shall have been a resident of this city for 12  
14 months immediately preceding the election of mayor or councilmember. Each such person  
15 shall continue to reside within the city during said period of service and shall be registered  
16 and qualified to vote in municipal elections of the city. No person's name shall be listed

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17 as a candidate on the ballot for election for either mayor or councilmember unless such  
18 person shall file a written notice with the clerk of said city that he or she desires his or her  
19 name to be placed on said ballot as a candidate either for mayor or councilmember. No  
20 person shall be eligible for the office of mayor or councilmember unless such person shall  
21 file such notice within the time provided by Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A, the  
22 'Georgia Election Code.'"

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Section 2.11 as follows:

25 "(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the mayor and  
26 councilmembers shall serve terms of four years. Municipal general elections for the city  
27 shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years.  
28 The terms of office for mayor and councilmembers shall begin at the time such individual  
29 takes the oath of office provided for in Section 3.11 of this charter.

30 (2) The mayor and councilmembers for Posts 2 and 4 elected at the municipal general  
31 election of 2021 shall serve a term of four years. The councilmembers for Posts 1, 3,  
32 and 5 elected at the municipal general election of 2021 shall serve a term of two years.

33 (3) Nothing herein shall affect the term of office of the mayor and councilmembers  
34 serving on the effective date of this Act."

35 **SECTION 3.**

36 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Section 2.12 as follows:

37 "(b)(1) In the event that the office of mayor becomes vacant during the first two years  
38 of a mayor's term, the city council shall appoint a councilmember to serve as mayor until  
39 an election can be held concurrently with the next municipal general election to fill the  
40 remainder of the unexpired term. In the event that the office of mayor becomes vacant

41 during the last two years of a mayor's term, the city council shall appoint a  
42 councilmember to serve as mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

43 (2) In the event that the office of a councilmember becomes vacant during the first two  
44 years of a councilmember's term, the city council shall appoint a qualified resident of the  
45 city to said office until an election can be held concurrently with the next municipal  
46 general election to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event that the office  
47 of a councilmember becomes vacant during the last two years of a councilmember's term,  
48 the city council shall appoint a qualified resident of the city to said office for the  
49 remainder of the unexpired term."

50 **SECTION 4.**

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