

House Bill 18EX2

By: Representatives Day of the 153rd, Bordeaux of the 151st, Pelote of the 149th and Mueller of the 152nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To create the Savannah-Chatham County Governmental Consolidation Study Committee;
2 to provide for legislative findings; to provide for membership by appointees of the affected
3 local governments and other members; to provide for meetings, operations, and funding; to
4 provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 The General Assembly finds that consolidation of local governments or local governmental
8 services may present opportunities for improvements in governmental economy and
9 efficiency, as well as improvements in service delivery; and that there exists a need for a
10 study to determine whether such consolidation of governmental units or services, or both,
11 could provide such improvements in the City of Savannah and Chatham County.

12 **SECTION 2.**

13 There is created the Savannah-Chatham County Governmental Consolidation Study
14 Committee to be composed of 12 members as follows: two members who shall not hold any
15 elected office who shall be appointed by the governing authority of the City of Savannah;
16 two members who shall not hold any elected office who shall be appointed by the governing
17 authority of Chatham County; and eight members who shall be appointed one each by the
18 members of the General Assembly representing Chatham County. No municipality in
19 Chatham County other than the City of Savannah shall be represented on the committee. The
20 cochairs of the committee shall be designated one each by the governing authorities of
21 Chatham County and the City of Savannah. The cochairs shall call all meetings of the
22 committee.

23 **SECTION 3.**

1 The members of the General Assembly representing Chatham County shall receive notice
2 of all meetings of the committee and shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the committee
3 as additional ex officio, nonvoting, advisory members thereof.

4 **SECTION 4.**

5 The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems
6 mentioned above or related thereto. Such study shall include a thorough examination of all
7 current consolidated governments in this state. The committee shall prepare a report which
8 includes a recommendation as to whether a form of consolidation is appropriate and desirable
9 for the City of Savannah and Chatham County, and, if so, what form would be appropriate
10 and desirable. The committee shall not consider or make recommendations with respect to
11 any municipality in Chatham County except the City of Savannah. The committee may seek
12 the advice and assistance of whatever sources of information and expertise it deems
13 appropriate, including but not limited to the Carl Vinson Institute of Government of the
14 University of Georgia and a facilitator. The committee shall recommend any other action
15 or legislation relative to consolidation which it deems necessary or appropriate. The
16 members of the committee may receive reimbursement for expenses for their services, and
17 the operations of the committee shall be funded from funds which shall be made available
18 by the governing authorities of the City of Savannah and Chatham County. Each such
19 governing authority shall be responsible for funding 50 percent of the cost of expenses and
20 operations. The committee shall provide a report of its findings and recommendations, with
21 suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to each member of the Chatham County
22 legislative delegation. Such report shall be made on or before June 1, 2002. The committee
23 shall stand abolished at 12:00 Midnight on June 1, 2002.

24 **SECTION 5.**

25 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2002.

26 **SECTION 6.**

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