

House Bill 942 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Gilliard of the 162nd, Petrea of the 166th, Stephens of the 164th, Stephens of the 165th, Gordon of the 163rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To create the Savannah Farmers Market Commission; to define certain terms; to provide for
2 a board of trustees, appointment of members, and meetings; to provide for powers, duties,
3 and purpose; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.
7 Short title.

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Savannah Farmers Market Commission
9 Act."

10 SECTION 2.
11 Savannah Farmers Market Commission.

12 (a) There is created a public body corporate and politic to be known as the "Savannah
13 Farmers Market Commission," which shall be deemed to be a political subdivision of the
14 state and a public corporation, and by that name, style, and title said body may contract and
15 be contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain and defend in
16 all courts of law and equity. The commission shall have perpetual existence.

17 (b) The commission shall be governed by a board of trustees consisting of a chairperson and
18 seven members selected by majority vote of the Chatham County Delegation to the General
19 Assembly of Georgia.

SECTION 3.

Definitions.

22 As used in this Act, the term:

- 23 (1) "Board" means the board of trustees of the Savannah Farmers Market Commission.
 24 (2) "Commission" means the Savannah Farmers Market Commission created by this Act.
 25 (3) "State" means the State of Georgia.

SECTION 4.

Powers.

28 The commission shall have the power:

- 29 (1) To accept grants of money or materials or property of any kind from the United
 30 States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof;
 31 (2) To accept grants of money or materials or property of any kind from the state or any
 32 agency or instrumentality or political subdivision thereof;
 33 (3) To accept loans or grants of money or materials or property of any kind from private
 34 corporations, individuals, and entities;
 35 (4) To administer funds under its control;
 36 (5) To appoint, select, and employ officers, agents, and employees;
 37 (6) To execute contracts, leases, installment sale agreements, and other agreements and
 38 instruments necessary or convenient in connection with the purpose of the commission;
 39 and
 40 (7) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly given in
 41 this Act.

SECTION 5.

Purpose of the commission.

44 Without limiting the generality of any provisions of this Act, the general purpose of the
 45 commission is:

- 46 (1) To plan and execute programs in concert with the Savannah State Farmers Market
 47 that would assist rural farmers from Chatham County and surrounding counties to earn
 48 revenue for their agricultural programs;
 49 (2) To attract farmers from throughout the coast of Georgia to the Savannah State
 50 Farmers Market and participate in the vending of their fruits, vegetables, and other
 51 farm-grown merchandise for sale to the general public;

- 52 (3) To showcase Georgia's agricultural programs to include 4-H clubs, Georgia Grown
53 products, county extension services, and agricultural economic opportunities; and
54 (4) To create a plan that would encourage farmers market stalls, arts and crafts vendors,
55 a commercial kitchen, and an entertainment stage to be used to attract music and artists
56 as a featured attraction of the market.

57 **SECTION 6.**

58 Meetings and public hearings.

59 The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson. In addition, the commission shall
60 hold such public hearings as the board deems necessary to receive public comments relating
61 to the needs of the Savannah State Farmers Market and possible ways to address such needs.
62 The commission shall consider, but shall not be bound by, such comments and suggestions.

63 **SECTION 7.**

64 Effective date.

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

67 **SECTION 8.**

68 Repealer.

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