

The House Committee on Rural Development offers the following substitute to HB 51:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 23 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, so as to authorize the authority to finance and
3 perform certain duties in connection with projects relating to natural gas facilities; to revise
4 definitions; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for limited liability; to provide
5 for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 23 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
10 Environmental Finance Authority, is amended in Code Section 50-23-4, relating to
11 definitions, by revising paragraphs (5), (6), (10.1), and (10.2) and adding a new paragraph
12 to read as follows:

13 "(5) 'Environmental facilities' means any projects, structures, and other real or personal
14 property acquired, rehabilitated, constructed, or planned:

15 (A) For the purposes of supplying, distributing, and treating water and diverting,
16 channeling, or controlling water flow and head including, but not limited to, surface or

H. B. 51 (SUB)

- 1 -

ground water, canals, reservoirs, channels, basins, dams, aqueducts, standpipes, penstocks, conduits, pipelines, mains, pumping stations, water distribution systems, compensating reservoirs, intake stations, waterworks or sources of water supply, wells, purification or filtration plants or other treatment plants and works, connections, water meters, mechanical equipment, electric generating equipment, rights of flowage or division and other plant structures, equipment, conveyances, real or personal property or rights therein and appurtenances, furnishings, accessories, and devices thereto necessary or useful and convenient for the collection, conveyance, distribution, pumping, treatment, storing, or disposing of water;

(B) For the purposes of collecting, treating, or disposing of sewage including, but not limited to, main, trunk, intercepting, connecting, lateral, outlet, or other sewers, outfall, pumping stations, treatment and disposal plants, ground water recharge basins, backflow prevention devices, sludge dewatering or disposal equipment and facilities, clarifiers, filters, phosphorus removal equipment and other plants, soil absorption systems, innovative systems or equipment, structures, equipment, vehicles, conveyances, real or personal property or rights therein, and appurtenances thereto necessary or useful and convenient for the collection, conveyance, pumping, treatment, neutralization, storing, and disposing of sewage;

(C) For the purposes of collecting, treating, recycling, composting, or disposing of solid waste, including, but not limited to, trucks, dumpsters, intermediate reception stations or facilities, transfer stations, incinerators, shredders, treatment plants, landfills, landfill equipment, barrels, binders, barges, alternative technologies and other plant structures, equipment, conveyances, improvements, real or personal property or rights therein, and appurtenances, furnishings, accessories, and devices thereto necessary or useful and convenient for the collection, treatment, or disposal of solid waste; ~~or~~

(D) For the purposes of carrying out a community land conservation project or a state land conservation project pursuant to Chapter 22 of Title 36; or

(E) For the purposes of storing, supplying, and distributing natural gas outside any certified area of a nonmunicipal gas company, as such term is defined in paragraph (5) of Code Section 46-1-1, including, but not limited to, pipelines, storage tanks and facilities, natural gas distribution systems, equipment, vehicles, conveyances, real or personal property or rights therein and appurtenances, furnishings, accessories, and devices thereto necessary or useful and convenient for the storage, supply, and distribution of natural gas.

(6) 'Environmental services' means the provision, collectively or individually, of water facilities, sewerage facilities, solid waste facilities, natural gas facilities, community land conservation projects or state land conservation projects pursuant to Chapter 22 Title 36, or management services."

"(10.1) 'Natural gas facility' means any environmental facility described in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (5) of this Code section.

(10.2) 'Nongovernmental entity' means a nonprofit organization the primary purposes of which are the permanent protection and conservation of land and natural resources.

~~(10.2)~~(10.3) 'Nonprofit corporation' means any corporation qualified as a not for profit corporation by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) or Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended in subsection (b) of Code Section 50-23-5, relating to purpose, powers, and duties, by deleting "and" at the end of paragraph (33), by deleting the period and substituting in lieu thereof "; and" at the end of subparagraph (J) of paragraph (34), and by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

"(35) To promulgate and adopt rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter."

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 50-23-12, relating to personal liability of members, officers, and employees of the authority, by revising paragraph (2) as follows:

"(2) The construction, ownership, maintenance, or operation of any solid waste system, sewerage system, natural gas system, environmental facility, or water system owned by a local government; or"

SECTION 4.

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

SECTION 5.

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