

House Bill 653

By: Representatives Ridley of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Momtahan of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Horner of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Camp of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Romman of the 97<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public utilities and  
2 public transportation, and various other titles of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so  
3 as to rename the Georgia Public Service Commission as the Georgia Public Utilities  
4 Commission; to provide for the succession of all rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and  
5 administrative orders of the Georgia Public Service Commission; to provide for the  
6 succession of all rights, privileges, entitlements, obligations, and duties of the Georgia Public  
7 Service Commission; to provide for the continuation of rights, privileges, entitlements, and  
8 duties of parties to certain contractual agreements; to provide for the continued service of  
9 members of the Georgia Public Service Commission; to make conforming changes; to  
10 provide for related matters; to provide a contingent effective date and automatic repeal; to  
11 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public utilities and public  
15 transportation, is amended by redesignating Code Sections 46-2-1 and 46-2-1.1, relating to  
16 election of commissioners and terms of office and elections for Public Service Commission

H. B. 653

17 districts 2, 3, and 5, respectively, as Code Sections 46-2-1.1 and 46-2-1.2, respectively, and  
18 by replacing the terms "Georgia Public Service Commission" and "Public Service  
19 Commission" with the terms "Georgia Public Utilities Commission" and "Public Utilities  
20 Commission", respectively, whenever such terms occur in said Code sections.

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

23 "46-2-1.

24 (a) The Georgia Public Service Commission which existed on December 31, 2026, is  
25 continued in existence but on and after January 1, 2027, shall become and be known as the  
26 Georgia Public Utilities Commission. The Georgia Public Utilities Commission shall  
27 succeed to all rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and administrative orders of the  
28 Georgia Public Service Commission that were in effect on December 31, 2026, or  
29 scheduled to go into effect on or after January 1, 2027, and shall further succeed to any  
30 rights, privileges, entitlements, obligations, and duties of the Georgia Public Service  
31 Commission that were in effect on December 31, 2026. Such rules, regulations, policies,  
32 procedures, and administrative orders shall remain in effect until amended, repealed,  
33 superseded, or nullified by the Georgia Public Utilities Commission by proper authority  
34 or as otherwise provided by law.

35 (b) The rights, privileges, entitlements, and duties of parties to contracts, leases,  
36 agreements, and other transactions entered into before January 1, 2027, by the Georgia  
37 Public Service Commission shall continue to exist; and none of these rights, privileges,  
38 entitlements, and duties are impaired or diminished by reason of the Georgia Public Service  
39 Commission becoming and being known as the Georgia Public Utilities Commission. In  
40 all such instances, the Georgia Public Utilities Commission shall be substituted for the  
41 Georgia Public Service Commission, and the Georgia Public Utilities Commission shall

42 succeed to the rights and duties under such contracts, leases, agreements, and other  
43 transactions.

44 (c) The members of the Georgia Public Service Commission in office immediately  
45 preceding January 1, 2027, shall continue to serve out their terms of office as members of  
46 the Public Utilities Commission and until their respective successors are elected and  
47 qualified as provided by law."

48 **SECTION 3.**

49 Various titles of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated are amended by replacing the terms  
50 "Georgia Public Service Commission", "Public Service Commission", and "public service  
51 commission" with the terms "Georgia Public Utilities Commission", "Public Utilities  
52 Commission", and "public utilities commission", respectively, wherever such terms occur  
53 in:

54 (1) Code Section 5-6-35, relating to cases requiring applicable for appeal, requirements  
55 for application, exhibits, response, issuance of appellate court order regarding appeal,  
56 procedure, supersedeas, jurisdiction of appeal, and appeals involving nonmonetary  
57 judgments in custody cases;

58 (2) Code Section 10-1-395, relating to authority and duties of the Attorney General, the  
59 Consumer Advisory Board, and relations with other regulatory agencies;

60 (3) Code Section 10-1-439.12, relating to exemptions relative to online automatic  
61 renewal transparency;

62 (4) Code Section 10-1-857, relating to complaints, inquiries, investigations, and  
63 corrective action;

64 (5) Code Section 12-5-295, relating to applicability of part;

65 (6) Code Section 12-7-17, relating to exemptions relative to control of soil erosion and  
66 sedimentation;

- 67 (7) Code Section 12-8-24, relating to permits for solid waste or special solid waste  
68 handling, disposal, or thermal treatment technology facility and inspection of solid waste  
69 generators;
- 70 (8) Code Section 14-4-2, relating to existing venue statutes unaffected by chapter;
- 71 (9) Code Section 14-4-42, relating to applications of laws governing par stock to nonpar  
72 stock;
- 73 (10) Code Section 16-11-65, relating to license to intercept telephonic communications  
74 for business service improvement and regulatory powers of Georgia Public Service  
75 Commission;
- 76 (11) Code Section 19-11-9.1, relating to duty to furnish information about obligor to  
77 department, use of information obtained, and penalty for noncompliance;
- 78 (12) Code Section 21-2-502, relating to issuance of certificates of election and  
79 commission and Governor's proclamation as to constitutional amendments;
- 80 (13) Code Section 21-5-30, relating to contributions made to candidate or campaign  
81 committee or for recall of a public officer;
- 82 (14) Code Section 21-5-30.1, contributions by regulated entities to elected executive  
83 officers or candidates;
- 84 (15) Code Section 25-9-3, relating to definitions relative to blasting or excavating near  
85 underground facilities;
- 86 (16) Code Section 32-9-6, relating to financial assistance for rail service;
- 87 (17) Code Section 35-2-49, relating to provision of uniforms and equipment to sworn  
88 members of the Department of Public Safety and radio operators and retention of  
89 weapons and badges upon retirement;
- 90 (18) Code Section 36-35-6, relating to limitations on home rule powers;
- 91 (19) Code Section 36-60-21, relating to contracts with private companies to construct  
92 and operate private toll roads and bridges to facilitate public transportation without  
93 additional tax revenues;

- 94 (20) Code Section 36-61-8, relating to powers of municipalities and counties generally;
- 95 (21) Code Section 40-1-23, relating to regulatory compliance inspections, notification,
- 96 jurisdiction, permit required, escorts or inspections, exceptions, recovery for damage or
- 97 discharge, civil monetary penalties, and department authority;
- 98 (22) Code Section 40-1-57, relating to applicability of prior action of the Public Service
- 99 Commission;
- 100 (23) Code Section 40-1-151, relating to definitions relative to Georgia limousine carriers;
- 101 (24) Code Section 40-2-61, relating to license plates for U.S. Senators and Congressmen,
- 102 state constitutional officers, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Justices of
- 103 Supreme Court, Judges of Court of Appeals, and Public Service Commission members;
- 104 (25) Code Section 40-16-5, relating to authority of commissioner, previous action by
- 105 department, background checks, and debt collection;
- 106 (26) Code Section 43-15-29, relating to exceptions to operation of chapter;
- 107 (27) Code Section 44-14-15, relating to fee for future conveyance and limited
- 108 circumstances;
- 109 (28) Code Section 45-5-6, relating to public official investigated by special commission
- 110 upon indictment, gubernatorial review if commission recommends suspension,
- 111 suspension, reinstatement, and replacement or temporary officer;
- 112 (29) Code Section 45-5-6.1, relating to suspension and vacation of office of public
- 113 officials convicted of felony;
- 114 (30) Code Section 45-7-4, relating to annual salaries of certain state officials and
- 115 cost-of-living adjustments;
- 116 (31) Code Section 45-10-25, relating to exceptions to prohibitions on transactions with
- 117 state agencies;
- 118 (32) Code Section 46-1-1, relating to definitions relative to general provisions
- 119 concerning public utilities and public transportation;

- 120 (33) Code Section 46-1-2, relating to measure of damages for wrongs and injuries by  
121 railroad companies generally and venue for actions against railroad companies and  
122 electric companies generally;
- 123 (34) Code Section 46-2-8, relating to payment of salaries and expenses by commission,  
124 appropriations for salaries and expenses, and designation of Public Service Commission  
125 Fund;
- 126 (35) Code Section 46-2-10, relating to payment of special fee by corporations and  
127 utilities subject to jurisdiction of commission, notice of amount due, and procedure on  
128 default;
- 129 (36) Code Section 46-2-25.2, relating to sixteen-mile toll-free telephone calling,  
130 modification of rate schedules, recovery of expenses or lost revenues by telephone  
131 companies, and rate-making power of Public Service Commission not affected;
- 132 (37) Code Section 46-2-25.3, relating to toll-free calls within 22 miles of exchange,  
133 hearings, and "net gain" defined;
- 134 (38) Code Section 46-2-26.3, relating to recovery of costs of conversion from oil-burning  
135 to coal-burning generating facility, filing of request, public hearing, determination of rate,  
136 and adjustments;
- 137 (39) Code Section 46-2-26.5, relating to gas supply plans and adjustment factors, filings  
138 and hearing procedures, and recovery of purchase gas cost;
- 139 (40) Code Section 46-3-52, relating to jurisdiction of commission over cogeneration  
140 facility the energy from which is used solely by operator;
- 141 (41) Code Section 46-3-152, relating to jurisdiction of commission over rates, services,  
142 and practices of authority;
- 143 (42) Code Section 46-3A-1, relating to definitions relative to integrated resource  
144 planning;

- 145 (43) Code Section 46-4-53, relating to application to commission by gas utility for order  
146 approving utilization or operation of underground reservoir, hearing on application  
147 generally, and giving notice of hearing;
- 148 (44) Code Section 46-4-54, relating to investigation by state geologist of site of proposed  
149 storage project, procedures involving state geologist, investigation of proposed storage  
150 project by director of Environmental Protection Division, procedures involving director,  
151 and investigation of proposed storage project by commission;
- 152 (45) Code Section 46-4-60, relating to adoption by Board of Natural Resources of rules  
153 and regulations governing construction, installation, utilization, and operation of  
154 underground reservoirs and stations, wells, fixtures, and other facilities, enforcement of  
155 rules and regulations, and inspection and examination;
- 156 (46) Code Section 46-4-122, relating to exemption from regulation by Public Service  
157 Commission;
- 158 (47) Code Section 46-4A-12, relating to construction of chapter;
- 159 (48) Code Section 46-5-1, relating to exercise of power of eminent domain by telephone  
160 companies, placement of posts and other fixtures, regulation of construction of fixtures,  
161 posts, and wires near railroad tracks, liability of telephone companies for damages,  
162 required information, and due compensation;
- 163 (49) Code Section 46-5-6, relating to exclusive power and authority of the Public Service  
164 Commission to prescribe rules and regulations regarding public pay telephones;
- 165 (50) Code Section 46-5-41, relating to obtaining of certificate of public convenience and  
166 necessity for construction, operation, acquisition, or extension of telephone lines, plants,  
167 or systems;
- 168 (51) Code Section 46-5-122, relating to definitions relative to emergency telephone  
169 number 9-1-1 system;
- 170 (52) Code Section 46-5-124, relating to guidelines for implementing state-wide  
171 emergency 9-1-1 system and training and equipment standards;

- 172 (53) Code Section 46-5-126, relating to cooperation by commission and telephone  
173 industry;
- 174 (54) Code Section 46-5-137, relating to powers of Public Service Commission not  
175 affected;
- 176 (55) Code Section 46-5-162, relating to definitions relative to telecommunications and  
177 competition development;
- 178 (56) Code Section 46-5-167, relating to the Universal Access Fund;
- 179 (57) Code Section 46-5-182, relating to certification of telecommunications companies  
180 which bill for or solicit intrastate telecommunications services;
- 181 (58) Code Section 46-5-211, relating to consent of end user required for release of  
182 telephone records and law enforcement exception;
- 183 (59) Code Section 46-5-213, relating to circumstances to which this article not  
184 applicable;
- 185 (60) Code Section 46-5-222, relating to commission has no authority over setting of rates  
186 or terms and conditions for the offering of broadband service, voice over Internet  
187 protocol, or wireless service and limitations;
- 188 (61) Code Section 46-8-42, relating to certificate of incorporation, duration of corporate  
189 existence, and fee for issuance of certificate;
- 190 (62) Code Section 46-8-73, relating to contents of petition for dissolution, certification  
191 resolution recommending dissolution, attachment of resolution to petition, verification  
192 of petition, and fee for filing petition;
- 193 (63) Code Section 46-8-75, relating to transfer of copy of petition from Secretary of State  
194 to commission;
- 195 (64) Code Section 46-8-78, relating to order of Secretary of State accepting surrender of  
196 charter and franchises and dissolving corporation and recording of petition, certificate of  
197 approval, certificate of publication, and order by Secretary of State;

- 198 (65) Code Section 46-8-196, relating to use of standard signs for highway crossings and  
199 for advertising or other purposes, mutilation, destruction, and defacement of standard  
200 signs, and removal of unauthorized signs by county authorities;
- 201 (66) Code Section 46-8A-2, relating to line or system permit required;
- 202 (67) Code Section 47-2-91, relating to credit for accumulations of forfeited annual and  
203 sick leave;
- 204 (68) Code Section 48-2-100, relating to exemptions for out-of-state businesses and  
205 employees conducting operations related to declared state of emergency and  
206 post-emergency application;
- 207 (69) Code Section 48-8-3, relating to exemptions relative to state sales and use taxes;
- 208 (70) Code Section 48-13-16, relating to excluded businesses or practitioners and other  
209 laws on occupation taxes or registration fees of local governments not repealed;
- 210 (71) Code Section 50-13-10, relating to declaratory judgment on validity of rules and  
211 venue for actions;
- 212 (72) Code Section 50-13-17, relating to initial decisions in contested cases, review of  
213 initial decisions, final decisions and orders, and Public Service Commission exceptions;
- 214 (73) Code Section 50-13-19, relating to judicial review of contested cases;
- 215 (74) Code Section 50-13-42, relating to applicability of article;
- 216 (75) Code Section 50-16-46, relating to state agencies directed to provide State  
217 Properties Commission with technical assistance;
- 218 (76) Code Section 50-16-108, relating to lessee subject to Public Service Commission  
219 regulation;
- 220 (77) Code Section 50-23-6, relating to loans to local governments and repayment;
- 221 (78) Code Section 50-32-52, relating to grants or loans to local government; and
- 222 (79) Code Section 50-39-51, relating to payment for costs of project, optional conditions,  
223 local government power to contract, and fees.

224 **SECTION 4.**

225 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027, conditioned upon the ratification at the  
226 state-wide general election held in November, 2026, of an amendment to Article IV,  
227 Section I, Paragraph I of the Georgia Constitution renaming the Georgia Public Service  
228 Commission as the Georgia Public Utilities Commission. If such amendment is not so  
229 ratified, this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed on January 1, 2027.

230 **SECTION 5.**

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