

House Bill 730

By: Representatives Petrea of the 166th, Stephens of the 164th, Hitchens of the 161st, Gilliard of the 162nd, and Jackson of the 165th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless, approved
2 March 30, 1989 (Ga. L. 1989, p. 4701), as amended, so as to provide for membership; to
3 provide for meetings; to provide for purposes; to provide for definitions; to provide for
4 legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act creating the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless, approved March 30,
9 1989 (Ga. L. 1989, p. 4701), as amended, is amended by revising subsection (d) of Section 2
10 as follows:

11 "(d) It is further found that such a public authority should provide the operational duties
12 of the CoC as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and
13 coordinate and assist public and private entities in implementing the homeless management
14 information system, developing a comprehensive coordinated entry system, leading the
15 annual point in time count efforts, serving as the CoC collaborative applicant, and
16 managing and assisting with the notice of funding opportunity process, including the

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17 preparation and final submission of the community collaborative application. The
18 authority is the collaborative applicant for the Interagency Council on Homelessness for
19 Chatham-Savannah."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 3 as follows:

22 "SECTION 3.

23 Definitions.

24 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this Act, the term:

25 (1) 'Authority' means the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless created by this
26 Act.

27 (2) 'CoC' means the group of individuals and agencies that carry out the responsibility
28 of planning a community's response to those persons experiencing homelessness.

29 (3) 'Collaborative applicant' means that agency designated to meet all U.S. Department
30 of Housing and Urban Development requirements under 24 C.F.R. Part 578.

31 (4) 'Coordinated entry' means a systemwide process that quickly and equitably
32 coordinates the access, assessment, and prioritization and referrals to housing and
33 emergency services for people experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness. This
34 centralized process transforms a CoC into a fully integrated crisis response system.

35 (5) 'Homeless' means being without or expecting within 30 days to be without sleeping
36 accommodations which meet health and safety standards and includes such factors as
37 unemployment, underemployment, substance abuse, mental illness, or other conditions
38 as determined by the authority which cause or contribute to causing the state of being
39 homeless.

40 (6) 'Homeless management information system' means the platform or software that is
41 used to collect jurisdictional data and report the same to the Department of Community
42 Affairs.

43 (7) 'Notice of funding opportunity' mean those notices provided to local governments and
44 communities by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development."

45 **SECTION 3.**

46 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 5 as follows:

47 "SECTION 5.

48 Membership.

49 (a)(1) The authority shall be governed by a board of directors that is composed of 13
50 members as follows:

51 (A) Two members shall be appointed by the City Council;

52 (B) Two members shall be appointed by the County Commission; and

53 (C) The remaining nine members shall be selected as provided for in subsection (a) of
54 Section 6 of this Act.

55 (2) One member shall presently be experiencing or in the past shall have experienced
56 homelessness.

57 (3) All members shall be appointed for a three-year term. In no event shall any member
58 serve more than two consecutive, three-year terms of office.

59 (b) All members shall be residents of Chatham County.

60 (c) Members shall receive no compensation.

61 (d) The board may remove any member by a majority vote of the full membership if the
62 member fails to carry out the duties and responsibilities required of members by this Act.

63 Said process for removal shall be outlined in by-laws of the organization.

64 (e) There shall be a chair of the board whose duties shall be outlined in the bylaws of the
65 authority. In addition to all other duties, powers, and responsibilities, the chair shall serve
66 on the board of the Interagency Council on Homelessness for Chatham-Savannah."

67 **SECTION 4.**

68 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 6 as follows:

69 "SECTION 6.

70 Organization; meetings.

71 (a) The chair of the board shall call an organizational meeting after the City of Savannah and
72 Chatham County have each appointed its respective representatives, but no later than 45 days
73 after this Act, as amended in 2025, becomes effective. At that meeting, the chair of the board
74 along with the appointees of the County and City and the executive committee shall select
75 the remaining board members. All directors other than the executive committee serving prior
76 to the effective date of the 2025 amendment of this Act shall cease to be directors upon such
77 amendment becoming effective. The chair shall continue to serve for two years as chair after
78 the 2025 amendment of this Act becomes effective.

79 (b) All acts of the board must be approved by a majority of the quorum of the board. The
80 board shall require at least 40 percent membership to have a quorum.

81 (c) The board shall meet no less than six times a year and shall also have an additional
82 annual meeting.

83 (d) The authority shall prepare and submit to the appointing bodies, including the City of
84 Savannah, Chatham County, and the Interagency Council on Homelessness for
85 Chatham-Savannah, an annual report each year upon completion of the U.S. Department of
86 Housing and Urban Development required annual point in time count. Such report shall make
87 available the latest independent audit of the authority."

88 **SECTION 5.**

89 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 7 as follows:

90 "SECTION 7.

91 Purposes.

92 (a) To provide all data, insights, and other information to the Interagency Council on
93 Homelessness for Chatham-Savannah to use in developing, and amending from time to time,
94 a comprehensive plan for public and private agencies to effectively provide services for
95 persons experiencing homelessness.

96 (b) To coordinate, evaluate, and provide the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
97 Development required operations of the CoC and support the implementation and carrying
98 out of the comprehensive plan developed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness for
99 Chatham-Savannah.

100 (c) To contract with public and private agencies for the purposes of subsections (a) and (b)
101 of this section and for such public and private agencies to provide programs and services to
102 persons experiencing homelessness in order to carry out the provisions of the comprehensive
103 plan developed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness for Chatham-Savannah.

104 (d) To offer services, including administration and implementation of a homeless
105 management information system, coordinated entry, leading the U.S. Department of Housing
106 and Urban Development required annual point in time count, submission of the U.S.
107 Department of Housing and Urban Development notice of funding opportunity community
108 application, coordination of the local notice of funding opportunity competition, street
109 outreach, encampment engagement, case management, crisis intervention and referral,
110 housing, and other related services to persons experiencing homelessness."

111

SECTION 6.

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