

Senate Bill 567

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To create the Ellaville-Schley County Parks and Recreation Authority and to authorize such  
2 authority to provide recreational services throughout Schley County; to provide a short title;  
3 to provide for the membership, for the appointment of members of the authority, and for  
4 meetings of same; to provide for definitions; to describe powers of the authority; to provide  
5 for the issuance of revenue bonds and other similar instruments; to declare the public purpose  
6 of such instruments; to provide for certain tax exemptions; to grant the authority and its  
7 members certain immunities; to fix the venue or jurisdiction of actions; to provide for  
8 budgets and procedures in connection therewith; to provide for audits; to provide for funding;  
9 to authorize employment of officers, agents, and employees; to provide for construction of  
10 this Act; to provide for conveyance of property upon dissolution; to provide for related  
11 matters; to provide for activation of the authority; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
12 purposes.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

14 **SECTION 1.**

15 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Ellaville-Schley County Parks and  
16 Recreation Authority Act."

S. B. 567

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17

**SECTION 2.**

18 (a) There is created a body corporate and politic to be known as the Ellaville-Schley County  
19 Parks and Recreation Authority, which shall be deemed to be a political subdivision of the  
20 State of Georgia and a public corporation. By that name, style, and title, such body may  
21 contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain  
22 and defend in all courts of law and equity. The authority shall have its principal office in  
23 Schley County, and its legal situs or residence for the purposes of this Act shall be Schley  
24 County. The scope of the authority's operation shall be limited to the territory embraced  
25 within Schley County. The authority is granted the same exemptions and exclusions from  
26 taxes as are now granted to cities and counties for the operation of facilities similar to  
27 facilities to be owned or operated by the authority as provided under the provisions of this  
28 Act.

29 (b) The authority shall consist of five members, with two members to be appointed by a  
30 majority vote of the governing authority of Schley County, no more than one of whom may  
31 be a member of such governing authority; two members to be appointed by a majority vote  
32 of the governing authority of the City of Ellaville, no more than one of whom may be a  
33 member of such governing authority; and one member shall be jointly appointed by the  
34 governing authorities of Schley County and the City of Ellaville. Initial members of the  
35 authority shall be appointed by July 1, 2026.

36 (c) To be eligible for membership on the authority, a person shall be at least 21 years of age,  
37 shall have been a resident of Schley County for at least two years, shall reside in Schley  
38 County during his or her membership, and, with the exception of members of the governing  
39 authority of Schley County or the governing authority of the City of Ellaville appointed to  
40 the authority pursuant to subparagraph (b) of this section, shall not hold an elected or  
41 appointed public office in Schley County or any of its municipalities at the time of the  
42 appointment.

43 (d) The terms of the membership of the authority members shall be as follows: the initial  
44 joint member, one of Schley County's initial two appointees, and one of the City of Ellaville's  
45 initial two appointees shall all serve a term to expire June 30, 2027. The remaining one of  
46 Schley County's initial two appointees and the remaining one of the City of Ellaville's initial  
47 two appointees shall serve a term to expire June 30, 2028. Thereafter, all appointees shall  
48 serve terms of two years. Members may succeed themselves in office.

49 (e) The members of the authority shall enter upon their duties immediately upon their  
50 appointment.

51 (f) The office of any member of the authority shall be declared vacant upon a determination  
52 by a majority of the members of the authority that such authority member has been, while  
53 in office, arrested for or convicted of a felony, a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated  
54 nature, or a crime involving moral turpitude, has moved such member's residence from  
55 Schley County, or has been elected or appointed to another public office during the term of  
56 the appointment during such member's term of office. The authority shall be authorized to  
57 remove from office any member of the authority by a vote of at least two-thirds of the  
58 members in the event that such member of the authority is found to be guilty of misfeasance  
59 or malfeasance in office, is found to have failed to attend three or more successive regular  
60 meetings of the authority without a reasonable excuse approved by a resolution adopted by  
61 the authority, or who is found to have engaged in actions or activities which are detrimental  
62 to the carrying out of the duties and obligations of the authority.

63 (g) Any vacancy on the authority shall be filled within 60 days through appointment by a  
64 majority vote of the governing authority that had appointed the authority member whose  
65 resignation, removal, or ineligibility resulted in such vacancy. The person so appointed shall  
66 serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

67 (h) At the inception of the authority and during the month of July of each year thereafter,  
68 except as hereinafter provided, the authority shall elect, as provided in this Act, one of its  
69 members as chairperson, vice chairperson, and a secretary-treasurer. Such officers shall

70 serve a term of one year beginning on the date of their election and ending June 30 of the  
71 succeeding year, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The chairperson  
72 shall have such powers and duties as granted from time to time by resolution of the authority.

73 When the vice chairperson is acting on behalf of the chairperson, the vice chairperson shall  
74 have the same duties and powers of the chairperson.

75 (i) The authority shall meet at least once monthly for the transaction of business. The  
76 authority may convene in special meetings on the call of the chairperson. If the chairperson  
77 is unable or fails to call a special meeting upon request of an authority member, the authority  
78 may convene a special meeting upon call by a majority of its members.

79 (j) A majority of the members of the authority shall constitute a quorum, but no action may  
80 be taken by the members of the authority without the affirmative vote of a majority of the full  
81 membership of the authority. No vacancy on the authority shall impair the right of the  
82 quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the authority.

83 (k) The authority may make bylaws and other rules and regulations for its own governance,  
84 which may include the use of *Robert's Rules of Order*, and may amend such rules and  
85 regulations by a majority vote of the authority. The authority may delegate to one or more  
86 of its officers, agents, or employees such powers and duties as may be deemed necessary and  
87 proper.

88 (l) The members of the authority shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall  
89 be reimbursed from any available funds for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
90 the performance of their duties.

91 (m) No member of the authority shall have, directly or indirectly, any financial interest,  
92 profit, or benefit in any contract, work, or business of the authority, nor in the sale, lease, or  
93 purchase of any property to or from the authority unless:

94 (1) Any interest, profit, or benefit of such member is disclosed in advance to the other  
95 members of the authority and is recorded in the minutes of the authority;

96 (2) Such member having any such interest, profit, or benefit is not present during that  
97 portion of an authority meeting when such contract, work, business, sale, lease, or  
98 purchase is being discussed; and

99 (3) Such member having such interest, profit, or benefit does not participate in any  
100 decision of the authority relating to such matter.

101 (n) As used in this section, an "interest, profit, or benefit" shall mean any interest that  
102 reasonably may be expected to result in a direct financial benefit to such member as  
103 determined by the authority, which determination shall be final and not subject to review.

104 (o) All meetings of the authority shall be open to the public to the extent provided in  
105 Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A.

106 (p) The authority shall have perpetual existence.

107 **SECTION 3.**

108 (a) As used in this Act, the term:

109 (1) "Authority" means the Ellaville-Schley County Parks and Recreation Authority  
110 created in Section 2 of this Act.

111 (2) "Cost of the project" means and includes:

112 (A) All costs of construction, purchase, lease, or other forms of acquisition;

113 (B) All costs of real property and any interest therein or thereto incurred in connection  
114 with a project, including, without limitation, land, improvements, franchises,  
115 easements, water rights, fees, permits, approvals, licenses, and the securing thereof and  
116 applying therefor;

117 (C) All costs of personal property and any interest therein or thereto incurred in  
118 connection with a project including, without limitation, furniture, machinery,  
119 equipment, initial fuel, and other supplies;

- 120 (D) Financing charges and interest prior to and during construction and for such  
121 additional period as the authority may reasonably determine to be necessary or  
122 desirable in order to place such project in operation;
- 123 (E) Costs of engineering, architectural, fiscal, and legal services;
- 124 (F) Cost of plans and specifications and all other expenses necessary or incidental to  
125 the acquisition, construction, or equipping of any project or to determining the  
126 feasibility or practicability of any project;
- 127 (G) Fees paid to fiscal agents for financial and other advice or supervision;
- 128 (H) Cost of administrative services and such other expenses as may be necessary or  
129 incident to the financing authorized by this Act; and
- 130 (I) The cost of a project may also include the payment of any loan made for the  
131 advance payment of any part of such cost, including interest thereon, and the costs of  
132 funding any debt service reserve or other reserves, as may be reasonably required by  
133 the authority with respect to the financing or operation of any project. Any obligation  
134 or expense incurred for any of the purposes outlined in this paragraph shall be regarded  
135 as part of the cost of the project and may be paid or reimbursed as such out of the  
136 proceeds of revenue bonds, notes, or other obligations of the authority issued pursuant  
137 to this Act.
- 138 (3) "Project" means and includes the acquisition, construction, installation, modification,  
139 renovation, rehabilitation, equipping, maintenance, and operation of parks, athletic, and  
140 recreational centers, facilities, and areas of any and all kinds including, but not limited  
141 to, playgrounds, parks, swimming pools, diving and wading pools, hiking and camping  
142 areas and facilities, picnicking areas and facilities, lakes and ponds, tennis courts, athletic  
143 fields, athletic facilities, athletic courts, fishing and boating facilities, skateboarding  
144 facilities, bike trails, club houses, gymnasiums, stadiums, auditoriums and amphitheaters,  
145 recreation centers and facilities, youth centers, lands for open space, senior citizen  
146 centers, golf courses, and equestrian facilities; the usual and convenient facilities,

147 buildings, improvements, machinery, and equipment appertaining thereto, and any and  
148 all extensions, additions, and improvements of such facilities; the acquisition,  
149 construction, installation, modification, renovation, rehabilitation, equipping,  
150 maintenance, and operation of any parking, concession, and dining facilities thereto; and  
151 other property of any nature whatsoever including, without limitation, land, buildings,  
152 improvements, structures, machinery, equipment, and furniture or areas, deemed by the  
153 authority to be necessary, convenient, or desirable in connection with any such parks,  
154 athletic, or recreational centers, facilities, and areas.

155 (4) "Revenue bonds" and "bonds" means revenue bonds as defined and provided for in  
156 Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law," and which  
157 may be issued by the authority as authorized under such article and any amendments  
158 thereto.

159 (b) Any project shall be deemed "self-liquidating" if, in the judgment of the authority, the  
160 revenues and earnings to be derived by the authority therefrom, including the anticipated  
161 revenues and earnings from the lease of any project, and all properties used, leased, and sold  
162 in connection therewith shall be sufficient to pay the cost of acquiring, operating,  
163 maintaining, repairing, improving, or extending the project and to pay the principal of and  
164 interest on the revenue bonds or other obligations that may be issued to finance, in whole or  
165 in part, the cost of such project or projects.

166

#### SECTION 4.

167 (a) The authority shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and  
168 effectuate the purposes and provisions of this Act including, without limitation, the following  
169 powers:

- 170 (1) To adopt a seal and alter the same at its pleasure;
- 171 (2) To provide recreational services throughout Schley County;
- 172 (3) To provide park services throughout Schley County;

- 173 (4) To develop, provide, maintain, and operate any project;
- 174 (5) To develop and provide athletic and recreational programs, activities, and services;
- 175 (6) To employ or retain agents, engineers, attorneys, fiscal agents, accountants,  
176 architects, planners, consultants, parks and recreation directors, supervisors,  
177 superintendents, playground leaders, maintenance personnel, administrative personnel,  
178 and other personnel necessary for such purposes;
- 179 (7) To acquire, construct, install, modify, renovate, rehabilitate, equip, maintain, and  
180 operate any project or portion thereof;
- 181 (8) To acquire by purchase, lease, gift, construction, or otherwise any real or personal  
182 property, or any interest therein desired to be acquired, as part of any project or for the  
183 purpose of improving, extending, adding to, reconstructing, renovating, or remodeling  
184 any project or part thereof already acquired or for the purpose of demolition to make  
185 room for any project or any part thereof. If the authority shall deem it expedient to  
186 construct any project on any lands, the title to which shall then be in the State of Georgia,  
187 the Governor is authorized to convey for and on behalf of the state title to such lands to  
188 the authority upon the receipt of such lawful consideration as may be determined by the  
189 parties to such conveyance. If the authority shall deem it expedient to lease, acquire, and  
190 construct any project on any lands, the title to which shall be in the name of the governing  
191 authority of Schley County or the governing authority of any municipality located in that  
192 county, such entity is authorized in its discretion to lease or convey title to such lands to  
193 the authority upon the receipt of such lawful consideration as may be determined by the  
194 parties of such conveyances or upon payment for the credit of the general funds of such  
195 county or municipalities of the reasonable value of such lands. Such reasonable value  
196 shall be determined by mutual consent of such county or municipality and the authority  
197 or by an appraiser to be agreed upon by the governing authority or body of such county  
198 or municipality and the chairperson of the authority. If the authority shall deem it  
199 expedient to lease or acquire any real or personal property from the governing body of

200 Schley County or of any municipality located therein, such governing body is authorized  
201 in its discretion to lease or convey title to such real or personal property to the authority  
202 without consideration from the authority to such governing body;

203 (9) To sell, convey, or assign any real or personal property, contract rights, revenues,  
204 income, tolls, charges, or fees owned or received by the authority, provided that such  
205 conveyance or assignment is not prohibited by the deed of such property to the authority  
206 or otherwise prohibited by other contract of the authority;

207 (10) To make, execute, and perform all contracts, leases, agreements, and other  
208 instruments deemed by the authority to be necessary or convenient in connection with the  
209 exercise by the authority of any of its powers, including contracts for the acquisition and  
210 construction of projects and leases of projects and contracts with respect to the use of  
211 projects which the authority causes to be erected or acquired. Such contracts may be  
212 made with any and all persons, firms, and corporations and with Schley County or any  
213 municipality located in Schley County, and with the State of Georgia, or any and all of  
214 its political subdivisions, departments, institutions, or agencies, all of whom are  
215 authorized to enter into contracts, leases, agreements, or instruments with the authority  
216 upon such terms and for such purposes as they deem advisable. Without limiting the  
217 generality of this paragraph, authorization is specifically granted to municipal  
218 corporations and counties and to the authority to enter into contracts, leases, and  
219 sublease-agreements with the State of Georgia, or any agencies or departments thereof,  
220 relative to any project or any property which such departments or agencies of the State  
221 of Georgia have now or may hereafter obtain by lease from the United States  
222 government, or any agencies or departments thereof, and the authority is specifically  
223 authorized to convey title in fee simple to any and all of its lands and any improvements  
224 thereon to any persons, firms, corporations, or municipalities or to the State of Georgia  
225 or to the United States government, or any agencies or departments thereof, subject to the  
226 rights and interest of the holders of any of the bonds or obligations issued pursuant to this

227 Act and by the resolution or trust indenture of the authority authorizing the issuance of  
228 any of its bonds or obligations as provided in this Act, provided that such conveyance is  
229 not prohibited by the deed of such property to the authority or otherwise prohibited by  
230 other contract of the authority;

231 (11) To construct, erect, acquire, own, repair, remodel, renovate, rehabilitate, maintain,  
232 add to, extend, improve, equip, operate, and manage projects as defined in this Act, on  
233 land owned or leased by the authority or on land owned or leased by others, and to pay  
234 all or part of the cost of any such project from the proceeds of revenue bonds or  
235 obligations or other funds of the authority or from such proceeds or other funds or any  
236 contributions or grants from any person, firm, or corporation or from the federal  
237 government, or any political subdivision thereof, the State of Georgia, or any political  
238 subdivision thereof, or any agency or instrumentality of any of the foregoing, all of which  
239 the authority is authorized to receive, accept, and use;

240 (12) To accept and administer gifts, devises and grants of money, materials, or property  
241 of any kind and to administer trusts;

242 (13) To borrow money for any of its corporate purposes and to execute and deliver notes,  
243 revenue bonds, and other evidences of such indebtedness and to use the proceeds thereof  
244 to pay all or any part of the cost of any project or refunding any outstanding indebtedness  
245 of the authority or to pay any other cost or expense of the authority incident to or  
246 necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act;

247 (14) As security for the repayment of any indebtedness or other obligations of the  
248 authority, to pledge, mortgage, convey, assign, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber any  
249 property, real or personal, of the authority and any income or revenues generated  
250 therefrom or otherwise, and to execute any trust agreement, indenture, security deed,  
251 mortgage, or security agreement containing any provisions not in conflict with law,  
252 provided that such trust agreement, indenture, security deed, mortgage, or security  
253 agreement, is not prohibited by the deed of such property to the authority or otherwise

254 prohibited by other contract of the authority, which trust agreement, indenture, security  
255 deed, mortgage, or security agreement may provide for judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure  
256 or forced sale of any property of the authority upon default on such obligations, either in  
257 payment of any amount due and owing thereunder, or in the performance or satisfaction  
258 of any term or condition, as are contained in such trust agreement, indenture, security  
259 deed, mortgage or security agreement. The State of Georgia, on behalf of itself and each  
260 county, municipal corporation, political subdivision, or taxing district therein, waives any  
261 right which it or such county, municipal corporation, political subdivision, or taxing  
262 district may have to prevent the foreclosure or forced sale of any property of the authority  
263 so mortgaged or encumbered, and any such mortgage or encumbrance may be foreclosed  
264 in accordance with law and the terms thereof;

265 (15) To exercise any power usually possessed by private corporations performing similar  
266 functions which is not in conflict with the Constitution or laws of this state;

267 (16) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly given in  
268 this Act; and

269 (17) To extend credit or make loans to any governmental body including, without  
270 limitation, Schley County or any municipal corporation located therein for the planning,  
271 design, construction, acquisition, or carrying out of any project, which credit or loans  
272 may be secured by loan agreements, mortgages, security deeds, security agreements,  
273 contracts, and any other instruments, fees, or charges, and upon such terms and  
274 conditions, as the authority shall determine to be reasonable in connection with such  
275 loans.

276 (b) The authority is specifically authorized from time to time to sell, lease, grant, exchange,  
277 transfer, assign, or otherwise dispose of any surplus property, both real and personal, or any  
278 interest therein, that the authority determines is no longer necessary or desirable in  
279 connection with its operation or purposes, provided that such sale, lease, grant, exchange,

280 transfer, assignment, or other disposition is not prohibited by the deed of such property to the  
281 authority or otherwise prohibited by other contract of the authority.

282 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act to the contrary, the authority shall not  
283 have the authority to construct, improve, or maintain any road or street on behalf of, pursuant  
284 to a contract with, or through the use of taxes or other revenues of any county or municipal  
285 corporation to the extent such is prohibited under subparagraph (e) of Paragraph V of Section  
286 VI of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Georgia.

287

### **SECTION 5.**

288 The authority, or any other authority or body which has or which may in the future succeed  
289 to the powers, duties, and liabilities vested in the authority created by this Act, shall have the  
290 power and is authorized at any time, or from time to time, to provide by resolution for the  
291 issuance of negotiable revenue bonds or other notes, bond anticipation notes, or other  
292 evidences of indebtedness for the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of any one or  
293 more projects or refunding any outstanding obligations of the authority. Such bonds or other  
294 debt instruments shall be dated and shall bear interest at such rate or rates, shall be payable  
295 on such dates, and shall otherwise have such terms and conditions as shall be determined by  
296 the authority. All revenue bonds shall be issued pursuant to and in conformity with Article 3  
297 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law," and all procedures  
298 pertaining to such issuance and the conditions thereof shall be the same as those contained  
299 in the Revenue Bond Law and any amendments thereto.

300

### **SECTION 6.**

301 All revenue bonds and other debt instruments issued by the authority under the provisions  
302 of this Act are declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose, and  
303 such bonds and other debt instruments, and the income thereof, shall be exempt from all  
304 taxation by the state.

305

**SECTION 7.**

306 Any revenue bonds or other debt instruments issued under the provisions of this Act shall not  
307 be deemed to constitute a debt of the State of Georgia, Schley County, or any municipality  
308 within Schley County or a pledge of the faith and credit thereof; provided, however, that such  
309 debt shall be payable solely from the rentals, revenues, earnings, and funds of the authority  
310 as provided in the resolution or contract authorizing the issuance and securing the payment  
311 of such bonds or other instruments. The issuance of such revenue bonds or other debt  
312 instruments shall not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the state or any political  
313 subdivision thereof, including Schley County and the municipalities within Schley County,  
314 to levy or to pledge any form of taxation whatsoever therefor or to make any appropriation  
315 for their payment, and all such bonds or other debt instruments shall contain recitals on their  
316 face covering substantially the foregoing provisions of this section. However, Schley  
317 County, the municipalities within Schley County, or any other political subdivision of the  
318 State of Georgia contracting with the authority may obligate itself to pay the amounts  
319 required under any contract entered into with the authority from funds received from taxes  
320 to be levied and collected for that purpose to the extent necessary to pay the obligations  
321 contractually incurred under this section and from any other source. The obligation to make  
322 such payments shall constitute a general obligation and a pledge of the full faith and credit  
323 of the obligor but shall not constitute a debt of the obligor within the meaning of Paragraph I  
324 of Section V of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Georgia. When under any such  
325 contract payments are obligated to be made from taxes to be levied for that purpose, then the  
326 obligation to levy and collect such taxes from year to year in an amount sufficient to fulfill  
327 and fully comply with the terms of such contract shall be mandatory.

328

**SECTION 8.**

329 The exercise of the powers conferred upon the authority in this Act shall constitute an  
330 essential governmental function for a public purpose, and the authority shall be required to

331 pay no taxes or assessments upon any of the property acquired by it or under its jurisdiction,  
332 control, possession, or supervision, or upon its activities in the operation and maintenance  
333 of property acquired by it or of buildings erected or acquired by it or any fees, rentals, or  
334 other charges for the use of such property or buildings or other income received by the  
335 authority. The tax exemption provided in this Act shall not include an exemption from sales  
336 and use tax on property purchased by or for the use of the authority.

337

**SECTION 9.**

338 The authority shall have the same immunity and exemption from liability for torts and  
339 negligence as the State of Georgia, and the officers, agents, and employees of the authority,  
340 when in performance of the work of the authority, shall have the same immunity from  
341 liability for torts and negligence as officers, agents, and employees of the State of Georgia.  
342 The authority may be sued the same as private corporations on any contractual obligation of  
343 the authority. The property of the authority shall not be subject to levy and sale under legal  
344 process, except as may be contractually authorized by the authority.

345

**SECTION 10.**

346 Any action to protect or enforce any rights under the provisions of this Act or any suit or  
347 action against such authority shall be brought in the Superior Court of Schley County.

348

**SECTION 11.**

349 All funds received pursuant to this Act, whether as proceeds from the sale of revenue bonds  
350 or other debt instruments or obligations, or as loans, revenue, rents, fees, charges, or other  
351 earnings, or as grants, gifts, or other contributions, shall be deemed to be trust funds to be  
352 held and applied by the authority solely as provided in this Act.

353

**SECTION 12.**

354 (a) The authority shall be funded by the governing authority of Schley County and by the  
355 governing authority of the City of Ellaville pursuant to the terms and provisions of an  
356 intergovernmental agreement entered into between the governing authorities and the  
357 authority which shall address the management, operations, funding, personnel, real and  
358 personal property, and other matters deemed necessary or appropriate to conduct the  
359 authority's day-to-day functions and activities.

360 (b) The authority shall develop a budget and a financial and program work plan for both  
361 capital and operational requirements for the authority's activities for each fiscal year. The  
362 authority's fiscal year shall commence July 1 of each calendar year and end June 30 of each  
363 succeeding calendar year. Such plan shall be known as the "Annual Operating and Capital  
364 Budget of the Ellaville-Schley County Parks and Recreation Authority." The budget and plan  
365 shall be adopted on or before December 31 of each year, with an effective date of January 1.  
366 All projected revenues and estimated expenditures shall be clearly outlined as to source and  
367 expenditure classification and purpose. The authority shall balance its budget at the end of  
368 each fiscal year.

369 (c) Each year the authority shall have made an independent audit and examination of the  
370 authority's financial records and transactions. Said audit shall be made in accordance with  
371 established national audit and accounting standards. Copies of said audit shall be available  
372 for public review.

373 (d) The authority may contract for legal, financial, and auditing services.

374

**SECTION 13.**

375 The authority is authorized to appoint, select, and employ officers, agents, and employees  
376 to adopt rules regulations governing their services, fix their respective compensations and  
377 terms of employment, and to contract with other entities for the provision of personnel  
378 employed by such other entities to be provided on behalf of the authority, provided that such

379 personnel shall be subject to all rules and regulations of the authority governing the services  
380 and compensation of employees of the authority.

381 **SECTION 14.**

382 This Act and any other law enacted with reference to the authority shall be liberally  
383 construed for the accomplishment of the purposes of the authority.

384 **SECTION 15.**

385 When the authority for any reason is dissolved after full payment of all indebtedness incurred  
386 under the provisions of this Act, both as to principal and interest, title to any property held  
387 by the authority shall be conveyed prior to such dissolution in accordance with provisions  
388 which may be made therefor in any deed of such property to the authority, including any  
389 deed or other conveyance document by which such property was conveyed to the authority  
390 by Schley County or any city located therein, or title to all property of any kind and nature,  
391 real and personal, held by the authority at the time of such dissolution, shall be conveyed to  
392 Schley County and the City of Ellaville, subject to any liens, leases, or any other  
393 encumbrances that are outstanding against or in respect to said property at the time of said  
394 conveyance as required by a then-existing intergovernmental agreement regarding the  
395 authority to which the governing authority of Schley and the governing authority of the City  
396 of Ellaville are parties.

397 **SECTION 16.**

398 The authority shall become active on July 1, 2026. The authority shall begin providing  
399 recreational services no later than January 1, 2027.

400 **SECTION 17.**

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