

House Bill 1253

By: Representatives Anderson of the 10th, Greene of the 154th, Jackson of the 128th, Corbett of the 174th, Houston of the 170th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to regional commissions, so as to revise the composition of the governing
3 council for regional commissions; to provide for the training of members thereof; to provide
4 for terms of office, filling of vacancies, and appointment of successors; to provide for related
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to regional commissions, is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code
10 Section 50-8-34, relating to councils of regional commissions, membership, terms of
11 membership, voting, officers, and powers, as follows:

12 ~~"(b) The manner of selecting such regional commission councilmembers shall be as~~
13 ~~prescribed by its bylaws and membership on the council shall be determined as follows:~~

14 ~~(1) The council shall include the chief elected official of each county governing body in~~
15 ~~the region for a period of time concurrent with each such elected official's term of elected~~
16 ~~office. If the chief elected official for a county is unable to serve on the council, he or she~~

17 ~~shall appoint another elected county official. In the case of a consolidated government~~
18 ~~where there is not another municipality located within the boundaries of the county, a~~
19 ~~second member of such consolidated government shall be appointed to the board;~~

20 ~~(2) The council shall include one elected official from one municipality in each county~~
21 ~~in the region for a period of time concurrent with each such elected official's term of~~
22 ~~elected office;~~

23 ~~(3) The council shall include three residents of the region appointed by the Governor,~~
24 ~~each for a term of two years. One of such three appointees shall be a member of a school~~
25 ~~board located within the region or a superintendent of schools within the region, and two~~
26 ~~of such three appointees shall be nonpublic councilmembers;~~

27 ~~(4) The council shall include one nonpublic councilmember appointed by the Lieutenant~~
28 ~~Governor for a term of two years and one nonpublic councilmember appointed by the~~
29 ~~Speaker of the House of Representatives for a term of two years; and~~

30 ~~(5) The council may include any additional members determined necessary by the~~
31 ~~commissioner for purposes of complying with laws or regulations, or otherwise. Any~~
32 ~~such additional members shall be selected by the council and shall serve for a term of one~~
33 ~~year.~~

34 (b)(1) Those members serving on the council of a regional commission on July 1, 2024,
35 shall serve until December 31, 2024, and on that date, their terms on the council shall
36 end. On and after January 1, 2025, the council of each regional commission shall be
37 composed and selected in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

38 (2) On and after January 1, 2025, the council of each regional commission shall consist
39 of the following members:

40 (A) The chief elected official of each county governing authority in such region who
41 shall serve for a term of office on the council concurrent with such official's term of
42 office as chief elected official of such county;

43 (B) A number of chief elected officials of municipalities located within the region
44 equal to the number of counties in the region. Such officials shall be nominated by the
45 chief elected officials of the counties and the department and the county chief elected
46 officials shall appoint them from among the persons nominated. Such members shall
47 serve for terms of two years and until their respective successors are appointed and
48 qualified; provided, however, that one-half of the initial appointees shall be appointed
49 to serve initial one-year terms beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on
50 December 31, 2025, and until their respective successors are appointed and qualified,
51 and one-half of the initial appointees shall be appointed to serve initial two-year terms
52 beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2026, and until their
53 respective successors are appointed and qualified. In the event that there are an odd
54 number of counties in the region, the odd member shall be appointed to an initial
55 two-year term in accordance with this subparagraph. In making such appointments, the
56 department shall consider the demographic diversity of the region. The initial
57 appointees under this subparagraph shall be appointed not later than December 1, 2024;
58 and
59 (C) A number of members equal to the number of counties in the region who are not
60 elected members of the county governing authorities or municipal governing authorities
61 in the region. Such members shall be appointed by the Governor in consultation with
62 the department. The department may solicit nominations from the citizens and
63 governmental entities located in the region for this purpose. In making such
64 appointments, the Governor shall consider the regional commitment of such candidates,
65 their past contributions to the government and economy of the region, their
66 commitment to the council, their leadership abilities, and their knowledge of state and
67 local government as well as demographic diversity of the region. At least two of the
68 appointees shall be the chairpersons of county boards of education in the region. Such
69 members shall serve for terms of two years and until their respective successors are

70 appointed and qualified; provided, however, that one-half of the initial appointees shall
71 be appointed to serve initial one-year terms beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending
72 on December 31, 2025, and until their respective successors are appointed and
73 qualified, and one-half of the initial appointees shall be appointed to serve initial
74 two-year terms beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2026, and
75 until their respective successors are appointed and qualified. In the event that there are
76 an odd number of counties in the region, the odd member shall be appointed to an initial
77 one-year term in accordance with this subparagraph. The initial appointees under this
78 subparagraph shall be appointed not later than December 1, 2024.

79 (3) The seats on the council for members serving on the council pursuant to
80 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be vacated upon any
81 such member ceasing to be a chief elected official of a county or municipality.

82 (4) Within six months of taking office as a member of the council, the department shall
83 provide all members of regional councils with appropriate training in their duties, tasks,
84 and responsibilities, which shall include training in leadership, service delivery strategy,
85 organizational accountability, and planning. If any member fails to complete the training
86 specified by the department within six months of taking office as a member of the
87 council, such member's seat shall be vacated by operation of law unless the department
88 provides a waiver to such member for such training.

89 (5) Vacancies on a council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment
90 for the unexpired term of the member.

91 (6) Successors appointed for members appointed pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C)
92 of paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be appointed by the original appointing authority
93 not later than December 1 of the year that the member's term expires in the same manner
94 as the original appointment."

95

SECTION 2.

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