

Senate Bill 425

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend an Act to provide for a new charter for the City of Ringgold, approved May 6,
2 2009 (Ga. L. 2009, p. 3624), so as to modify compensation and expenses, rules of procedure,
3 a quorum, removal of the city manager, council interference with administration, and
4 selection of the mayor and mayor pro tempore; to modify membership of boards,
5 commissions, and authorities; to modify provisions for vacancies; to provide for related
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act to provide for a new charter for the City of Ringgold, approved May 6, 2009 (Ga. L.
10 2009, p. 3624), is amended by revising Section 2.13 as follows:

11 "SECTION 2.13.

12 Compensation and expenses.

13 The mayor and councilmembers shall receive compensation and expenses for their services
14 as provided by ordinance. Compensation will be reviewed in the odd years at the second
15 meeting in April."

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Section 2.20 as follows:

18 "(b) All committees and committee chairs and officers of the city council shall be
19 appointed by the mayor and approved by the council and shall serve at the pleasure of the
20 mayor with the approval of the council. The mayor shall have the power to appoint new
21 members to any committee at any time upon approval of the council. The mayor will
22 designate the chairperson of each committee, which chairperson shall be responsible to
23 ensure all applicable laws, procedures, rules, and regulations are followed by the

24 committee. The mayor or a councilmember may participate as an ex officio member of any
25 committee."

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 2.21 as follows:

28 "(a) Four councilmembers shall constitute a quorum and shall be authorized to transact
29 business of the city council. Voting on the adoption of ordinances shall be by voice vote
30 and the vote shall be recorded in the journal, but any member of the city council shall have
31 the right to request a roll call vote and such vote shall be recorded in the journal. The
32 mayor shall vote in case of a tie. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the
33 affirmative vote of three councilmembers shall be required for the adoption of any
34 ordinance, resolution, or motion."

35 **SECTION 4.**

36 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 2.28 as follows:

37 "SECTION 2.28.
38 Removal of city manager.

39 The city manager shall be employed at will and may be summarily removed from office
40 at any time by vote in favor of removal by all members of the city governing authority, less
41 one."

42 **SECTION 5.**

43 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 2.31 as follows:

44 "SECTION 2.31.
45 Council interference with administration.

46 Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under Section 2.15 of this charter,
47 the mayor and each councilmember shall deal with the city officers and employees who are
48 subject to the direction and supervision of the city manager solely through the city
49 manager, and neither the mayor nor a councilmember shall give orders to any such officer
50 or employee, either publicly or privately."

51 **SECTION 6.**

52 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 2.32 as follows:

53 "SECTION 2.32.

54 Selection of mayor and mayor pro tempore.

55 At every other regular municipal election, the voters of the city shall elect a mayor at large
 56 for a term of four years. Every two years, at the initial meeting of the city council on the
 57 second Monday in January, following the regular municipal elections, the council shall
 58 elect from among its members a mayor pro tempore who shall act as mayor during the
 59 absence or disability of the mayor, but shall only vote once on matters before the council,
 60 and, if a vacancy occurs, shall become mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term
 61 provided that the unexpired term is not over 12 months. If the vacancy will be over 12
 62 months, an election will be held to fill the unexpired term of the mayor and the mayor pro
 63 tempore will act as mayor until such election is held and the new mayor is sworn in."

64 **SECTION 7.**

65 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Section 3.11 as follows:

66 "(d) An elected official may serve as an appointed member of a board, commission, or
 67 authority of the city."

68 **SECTION 8.**

69 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 5.14 as follows:

70 "SECTION 5.14.

71 Special elections; vacancies.

72 In the event that the office of a councilmember shall become vacant as provided in Section
 73 2.12 of this charter, the city council or those remaining shall order a special election to fill
 74 the balance of the unexpired term of such official; provided, however, that, if such vacancy
 75 occurs within 12 months of the expiration of the term of that office, the city council or
 76 those remaining shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term. In all other
 77 respects, the special election shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2 of
 78 Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code,' as now or hereafter amended."

79 **SECTION 9.**

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