House Bill 841 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Dollar of the 45th, Cooper of the 43rd, and Setzler of the 35th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1 To incorporate the City of East Cobb; to provide a charter; to provide for boundaries and 2 powers of the city; to provide for a governing authority of such city and the powers, duties, 3 authority, election, terms, vacancies, compensation, expenses, qualifications, prohibitions, 4 conflicts of interest, and suspension and removal from office relative to members of such governing authority; to provide for inquiries and investigations; to provide for oaths, 5 6 organization, meetings, quorum, voting, rules, and procedures; to provide for ordinances and 7 codes; to provide additional notice and hearing requirements; to provide for a mayor and 8 mayor pro tempore and certain duties, powers, and other matters relative thereto; to provide 9 for the office of city manager, appointment, removal, powers, and duties thereof; to prohibit 10 council interference with administration; to provide for administrative affairs and 11 responsibilities; to provide for boards, commissions, and authorities; to provide for a city 12 attorney, a city clerk, and other personnel and matters relating thereto; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a municipal court and the judge or judges thereof and other 13 14 matters relative to those judges; to provide for the court's jurisdiction, powers, practices, and 15 procedures; to provide for the right of certiorari; to provide for elections; to provide for 16 taxation, licenses, and fees; to provide for franchises, service charges, and assessments; to 17 provide for bonded and other indebtedness; to provide for auditing, accounting, budgeting, 18 and appropriations; to provide for city contracts and purchasing; to provide for the

19 conveyance of property and interests therein; to provide for bonds for officials; to provide 20 for prior ordinances and rules, pending matters, and existing personnel; to provide for 21 penalties; to provide for definitions and construction; to provide for other matters relative to 22 the foregoing; to provide for a referendum; to provide effective dates and transitional 23 provisions governing the transfer of various functions and responsibilities from Cobb County 24 to the City of East Cobb; to provide for severability; to provide for effective dates; to repeal 25 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

27 ARTICLE I. 28 INCORPORATION AND POWERS 29 SECTION 1.10.

30 Name.

31 This Act shall constitute the charter of the City of East Cobb. The city and the inhabitants
32 thereof are constituted and declared a body politic and corporate under the name and style
33 "City of East Cobb, Georgia," and by that name shall have perpetual succession.

- 34 SECTION 1.11.
- 35 Corporate boundaries.

(a) The boundaries of this city shall be those set forth and described in Appendix A of this
charter, less and except all property owned by the United States government as part of the
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in VTD Sope Creek 03 Block 030354
blocks 3006 and 3007 on the effective date of this charter, and said Appendix A is

incorporated into and made a part of this charter. The boundaries of this city at all times
shall be shown on a map, a written description, or any combination thereof, to be retained
permanently in the office of the city clerk and to be designated, as the case may be:
"Official Map (or Description) of the corporate limits of the City of East Cobb, Georgia."
Photographic, typed, or other copies of such map or description certified by the city clerk
shall be admitted as evidence in all courts and shall have the same force and effect as with
the original map or description.

(b) The city council may provide for the redrawing of any such map by ordinance to reflect
lawful changes in the corporate boundaries. A redrawn map shall supersede for all
purposes the entire map or maps which it is designated to replace.

50

SECTION 1.12.

51 Powers and construction

52 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this city shall have the following53 powers:

(1) Animal regulations. To regulate and license or to prohibit the keeping or running at large of animals and fowl and to provide for the impoundment of same if in violation of any ordinance or lawful order; to provide for the disposition by sale, gift, or humane destruction of animals and fowl when not redeemed as provided by ordinance; and to provide punishment for violation of ordinances enacted under this charter;

(2) Appropriations and expenditures. To make appropriations for the support of the
government of the city; to authorize the expenditure of money for any purposes
authorized by this charter and for any purpose for which a municipality is authorized by
the laws of the State of Georgia; and to provide for the payment of expenses of the city;

(3) Building regulation. To regulate and to license the erection and construction of
buildings and all other structures; to adopt building, housing, plumbing, electrical, gas,
and heating and air-conditioning codes; and to regulate all housing and building trades;
(4) Contracts. To enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities
and with private persons, firms, and corporations;

(5) Emergencies. To establish procedures for determining and proclaiming that an
emergency situation exists within or outside the city and to make and carry out all
reasonable provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the
protection, safety, health, or well-being of the citizens of the city;

(6) Environmental protection. To protect and preserve the natural resources,
environment, and vital areas of the state through the preservation and improvement of air
quality, the restoration and maintenance of water resources, the control of erosion and
sedimentation, the management of solid and hazardous waste, and other necessary actions
for the protection of the environment;

(7) Fire regulations. To fix and establish fire limits and from time to time to extend,
enlarge, or restrict the same; to prescribe fire safety regulations not inconsistent with
general law, relating to both fire prevention and detection and to fire fighting; and to
prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;

(8) General health, safety, and welfare. To define, regulate, and prohibit any act,
practice, conduct, or use of property which is detrimental to health, sanitation,
cleanliness, welfare, and safety of the inhabitants of the city and to provide for the
enforcement of such standards;

(9) Gifts. To accept or refuse gifts, donations, bequests, or grants from any source for
any purpose related to powers and duties of the city and the general welfare of its
citizens, on such terms and conditions as the donor or grantor may impose;

(10) Health and sanitation. To prescribe standards of health and sanitation and to
provide for the enforcement of such standards;

90 (11) Jail sentences. To provide that persons given jail sentences in the municipal court 91 may work out such sentences in any public works or on the streets, roads, drains, and 92 other public property in the city; to provide for commitment of such persons to any jail; 93 or to provide for commitment of such persons to any county work camp or county jail by 94 agreement with the appropriate county officials:

95 Municipal agencies and delegation of power. To create, alter, or abolish (12)96 departments, boards, offices, commissions, and agencies of the city and to confer upon 97 such agencies the necessary and appropriate authority for carrying out all the powers 98 conferred upon or delegated to the same;

99 (13) Municipal debts. To appropriate and borrow money for the payment of debts of the 100 city and to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project, 101 program, or venture authorized by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia;

102 (14) Municipal property ownership. To acquire, dispose of, lease, and hold in trust or 103 otherwise any real, personal, or mixed property, in fee simple or lesser interest, inside or 104 outside the property limits of the city;

105 (15) Municipal property protection. To provide for the preservation and protection of 106 property and equipment of the city and the administration and use of same by the public; 107 and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;

108 (16) Nuisance. To define a nuisance and provide for its abatement whether on public or 109 private property;

110 (17) Penalties. To provide penalties for violation of any ordinances adopted pursuant to 111 the authority of this charter and the laws of the State of Georgia;

112 (18) Planning and zoning. To provide comprehensive city planning for development by

113 zoning; and to provide subdivision regulation and the like as the city council deems

114 necessary and reasonable to ensure a safe, healthy, and esthetically pleasing community;

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(19) Public hazards; removal. To provide for the destruction and removal of any
building or other structure which is or may become dangerous or detrimental to the
public;

(20) Public improvements. To provide for the acquisition, construction, building,
operation, and maintenance of parks and playgrounds, public grounds, recreational
facilities, public buildings, and charitable, cultural, educational, recreational,
conservation, and sport institutions, agencies, and facilities; and to regulate the use of
public improvements;

(21) Public utilities and services. To grant franchises or make contracts for or impose
taxes on public utilities and public service companies and to prescribe the rates, fares,
regulations, and standards and conditions of service applicable to the service to be
provided by the franchise grantee or contractor, insofar as not in conflict with valid
regulations of the Georgia Public Service Commission;

(22) Regulation of roadside areas. To prohibit or regulate and control the erection,
removal, and maintenance of signs, billboards, trees, shrubs, fences, buildings, and any
and all other structures or obstructions upon or adjacent to the rights of way of streets and
roads or within view thereof, within or abutting the corporate limits of the city; and to
prescribe penalties and punishment for violation of such ordinances;

133 (23) Retirement. To provide and maintain a retirement plan for officers and employees134 of the city;

(24) Roadways. To grant franchises and rights of way throughout the streets and roads
and over the bridges and viaducts for the use of public utilities; and to require real estate
owners to repair and maintain in a safe condition the sidewalks adjoining their lots or
lands and to impose penalties for failure to do so;

139 (25) Special areas of public regulation. To regulate or prohibit junk dealers, pawn shops,

- 140 the manufacture, sale, or transportation of any intoxicating liquors, alcoholic beverages,
- 141 and the use of firearms; to regulate the transportation, storage, and use of combustible,

explosive, and inflammable materials, the use of lighting and heating equipment, and any
other business or situation which may be dangerous to persons or property; to regulate
and control the conduct of peddlers and itinerant traders, theatrical performances,
exhibitions, and shows of any kind, by taxation or otherwise; and to license, tax, regulate,
or prohibit professional fortunetelling, palmistry, adult bookstores, and massage parlors;
(26) Special assessments. To levy and provide for the collection of special assessments
to cover the costs for any public improvements;

(27) Taxes: ad valorem. To levy and provide for the assessment, valuation, revaluation,
and collection of taxes on all property subject to taxation subject to a maximum of 1 mill;
(28) Taxes: other. To levy and collect such other taxes as may be allowed now or in the
future by law; and

153 (29) Taxicabs. To regulate and license vehicles operated for hire in the city; to limit the 154 number of such vehicles; to require the operators thereof to be licensed; to require public 155 liability insurance on such vehicles in the amounts to be prescribed by ordinance; and to 156 regulate the parking of such vehicles.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the city shall exercise the powers
enumerated in subsection (a) of this section only for the purposes of planning and zoning,
code adoption and enforcement, parks and recreation, police and law enforcement services,
fire and emergency services, and those items directly related to the provision of such
services and for the general administration of the city in providing such services.

(c) In the event that the city desires to provide services in addition to those services enumerated in subsection (b) of this section, the city council shall pass a resolution specifically stating the services sought to be offered by the city and shall submit the approval of such resolution for ratification by the electors of the city in a referendum. If the electors of the city vote in favor of ratifying such resolution, then the city shall be authorized to exercise the powers enumerated in subsection (a) of this section for the purpose of providing such services stated in such resolution and those items directly related

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to the provision of such services and for the general administration of the city in providingsuch services. If the electors of the city disapprove such resolution, it shall immediately

- 171 be null and void and of no force and effect.
- 172 SECTION 1.13.

173 Exercise of powers.

All powers, functions, rights, privileges, and immunities of the city, its officers, agencies, or
employees shall be carried into execution as provided by this charter. If this charter makes
no provision, such shall be carried into execution as provided by ordinance or as provided
by pertinent laws of the State of Georgia.

- 178 ARTICLE II.179 GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE
- 180 SECTION 2.10.
- 181 City council creation; number; election.

(a) The governing authority of the city, except as otherwise specifically provided in this
charter, shall be vested in a city council to be composed of a mayor and six
councilmembers. The mayor and councilmembers shall be elected in the manner provided
by this charter.

(b)(1) The mayor shall be limited to serving three full, consecutive four-year terms ofoffice.

188 (2) Councilmembers shall be limited to serving three full, consecutive terms of office.

189 (3) Persons who serve terms of less than four years as a result of being elected to an 190 initial term of office under Article VIII of this charter or who fill an unexpired term shall 191 not be considered to have served a full term of office for the purposes of this subsection.

- 192 SECTION 2.11.
- 193 City councilmembers:
- 194 terms and qualifications for office.

195 (a) Except as otherwise provided in Article VIII of this charter for the initial terms of 196 office, the members of the city council shall serve for terms of four years and until their 197 respective successors are elected and qualified. The term of office of each member of the 198 city council shall begin on the first day of January immediately following the election of 199 such member unless general law authorizes or requires the term to begin at the first 200 organizational meeting in January or upon some other date. No person shall be eligible to 201 serve as councilmember unless that person shall have been a resident of the city, and the 202 district from which he or she is elected, for 12 months prior to the date of the election of 203 members of the city council; each shall continue to reside therein during that person's 204 period of service and to be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of this 205 city.

206 (b) The city council seats shall be designated Post 1, Post 2, Post 3, Post 4, Post 5, and 207 Post 6. Candidates shall designate the post for which they are offering for election when 208 qualifying for election.

209 (c) For the purposes of electing members of the city council, the city is divided into three 210 districts. Each district shall be represented by two posts. One member of the board shall 211 be elected to each post by a majority of electors of the city voting at large. Post 1 and 212 Post 2 shall represent District 1. Post 3 and Post 4 shall represent District 2. Post 5 and 213 Post 6 shall represent District 3. The three numbered districts are described in Appendix B

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attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as 'User: H045 Plan Name:

215 EastCobb-dist-2022 Plan Type: Local'.

216 (d)(1) For the purposes of such plan:

(A) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as
provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial
census of 2020 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district
description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual
Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the
United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia; and

(B) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the
description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical
boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial
census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

(2) Any part of the City of East Cobb as described in Appendix B which is not included
in any district described in this plan shall be included within that district contiguous to
such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial
census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

(3) Any part of City of East Cobb as described in Appendix B as being included in a
particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not
contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that
district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the
United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

(4) If any area included within the descriptions of District 1, District 2, or District 3 is
on the effective date of this Act within the municipal boundaries of another municipality
or within a county other than Cobb County, such area shall not be included within the
district descriptions of such districts.

22 HB 841/AP 240 SECTION 2.12. 241 Vacancy; filling of vacancies; suspensions. 242 (a) Vacancies. The office of mayor or councilmember shall become vacant upon such 243 person's failing or ceasing to reside in the city or upon the occurrence of any event 244 specified by the Constitution, Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., or such other applicable laws as are 245 or may hereafter be enacted. 246 (b) Filling of vacancies. A vacancy in the office of mayor or councilmember shall be 247 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any, by appointment by the remaining 248 members of the city council if less than 12 months remain in the unexpired term, otherwise 249 by an election as provided for in Section 5.14 of this charter and Titles 21 and 45 of the 250 O.C.G.A. or such other laws as are or may hereafter be enacted. 251 (c) Suspension. Upon the suspension from office of mayor or councilmember in any 252 manner authorized by the general laws of the State of Georgia, the city council or those 253 remaining shall appoint a successor for the duration of the suspension. If the suspension 254 becomes permanent, then the office shall become vacant and shall be filled for the 255 remainder of the unexpired term, if any, as provided for in this charter. 256 SECTION 2.13.

257 Compensation and expenses.

(a) The mayor shall receive an initial salary of \$9,000.00 per year, paid in equal monthly
installments from the funds of the municipality. Each councilmember shall receive an
initial salary of \$8,000.00 per year, paid in equal monthly installments from the funds of
the municipality.

(b) The mayor and councilmembers may alter such compensation for their services asprovided by law.

	22 HB 841/AP
264	SECTION 2.14.
265	Conflicts of interest; holding other offices.
266	(a) Elected and appointed officers of the city are trustees and servants of the residents of
267	the city and shall act in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of such residents.
268	(b) Conflict of interest. No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or
269	any agency or political entity to which this charter applies shall knowingly:
270	(1) Engage in any business or transaction or have a financial or other personal interest,
271	direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of that person's official
272	duties or which would tend to impair the independence of that person's judgment or
273	action in the performance of that person's official duties;
274	(2) Engage in or accept private employment or render services for private interests when
275	such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of that person's
276	official duties or would tend to impair the independence of that person's judgment or
277	action in the performance of that person's official duties;
278	(3) Disclose confidential information, including information obtained at meetings which
279	are closed pursuant to Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., concerning the property,
280	government, or affairs of the governmental body by which that person is engaged without
281	proper legal authorization or use such information to advance the financial or other
282	private interest of that person or others;
283	(4) Accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, thing, or promise,
284	from any person, firm, or corporation which to that person's knowledge is interested,
285	directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, in business dealings with the
286	governmental body by which that person is engaged; provided, however, that an elected
287	official who is a candidate for public office may accept campaign contributions and
288	services in connection with any such campaign;

(5) Represent other private interests in any action or proceeding against this city or anyportion of its government; or

(6) Vote or otherwise participate in the negotiation or in the making of any contract withany business or entity in which that person has a financial interest.

293 (c) Disclosure. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee who shall have any 294 financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within 295 any department of the city shall disclose such interest to the city council. The mayor or any 296 councilmember who has a financial interest in any matter pending before the city council shall disclose such interest and such disclosure shall be entered on the records of the citv 297 298 council, and that person shall disqualify himself or herself from participating in any 299 decision or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of 300 any agency or political entity to which this charter applies who shall have any financial 301 interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within such 302 entity shall disclose such interest to the governing body of such agency or entity.

(d) Use of public property. No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city
or any agency or entity to which this charter applies shall use property owned by such
governmental entity for personal benefit, convenience, or profit except in accordance with
policies promulgated by the city council or the governing body of such agency or entity.
(e) Contracts voidable and rescindable. Any violation of this section which occurs with
the knowledge, express or implied, of a party to a contract or sale shall render such contract

309 or sale voidable at the option of the city council.

(f) Ineligibility of elected official. Except where authorized by law, neither the mayor nor any councilmember shall hold any other elective or compensated appointive office in the city or otherwise be employed by said government or any agency thereof during the term for which that person was elected. No former councilmember and no former mayor shall hold any compensated appointive office in the city until one year after the expiration of the term for which that person was elected. (g) Political activities of certain officers and employees. No appointed officer and no employee of the city shall continue in such employment upon qualifying as a candidate for nomination or election to any public office. No employee of the city shall continue in such employment upon election to any public office in this city or any other public office which is inconsistent, incompatible, or in conflict with the duties of the city employee. Such determination shall be made by the mayor and city council either immediately upon election or at any time such conflict may arise.

323 (h) Penalties for violation.

(1) Any city officer or employee who knowingly conceals such financial interest or
knowingly violates any of the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance
in office or position and shall be deemed to have forfeited that person's office or position.
(2) Any officer or employee of the city who shall forfeit that person's office or position
as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be ineligible for appointment or
election to or employment in a position in the city government for a period of three years
thereafter.

331 SECTION 2.15.

332 Inquiries and investigations.

Following the adoption of an authorizing resolution, the city council may make inquiries and investigations into the affairs of the city and conduct of any department, office, or agency thereof and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence. Any person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order issued in the exercise of these powers by the city council shall be punished as may be provided by ordinance.

	22 HB 841/AP
339	SECTION 2.16.
340	General power and authority of the city council.
341	Except as otherwise provided by law or this charter, the city council shall be vested with all
342	the powers of government of this city.
343	SECTION 2.17.

344 Organizational meetings.

345 Unless otherwise provided by ordinance, the city council shall hold an organizational 346 meeting on the first Tuesday in January of each even-numbered year. The meeting shall be 347 called to order by the city clerk and the oath of office shall be administered to the newly 348 elected members as follows:

349 "I do solemnly (swear) (affirm) that I will faithfully perform the duties of
350 (mayor)(councilmember) of this city and that I will support and defend the charter thereof
351 as well as the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and the United States of
352 America."

353	SECTION 2.18.
354	Meetings.

(a) The city council shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as shall beprescribed by ordinance.

(b) Special meetings of the city council may be held on call of the mayor or three members
of the city council. Notice of such special meeting shall be served on all other members
personally, or by telephone personally, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Such
notice to councilmembers shall not be required if the mayor and all councilmembers are

361 present when the special meeting is called. Such notice of any special meeting may be 362 waived by a councilmember in writing before or after such a meeting and attendance at the 363 meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice on any business transacted in such 364 councilmember's presence. Only the business stated in the call may be transacted at the 365 special meeting.

(c) All meetings of the city council shall be public to the extent required by law, and notice
to the public of special meetings shall be made as fully as is reasonably possible as
provided by Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A. or other such applicable laws as are or
may hereafter be enacted.

- 370 SECTION 2.19.
- 371 Rules of procedure.

372 (a) The city council shall adopt its rules of procedure and order of business consistent with

the provisions of this charter and shall provide for keeping of a journal of its proceedings,

374 which shall be a public record.

(b) All committees and committee chairpersons and officers of the city council shall be
appointed by the mayor and shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor. The mayor shall have
the power to appoint new members to any committee at any time.

- 378 SECTION 2.20.
- 379 Quorum; voting.

380 The mayor and three councilmembers or four councilmembers shall constitute a quorum and 381 shall be authorized to transact business of the city council. Voting on the adoption of 382 ordinances shall be by voice vote and the vote shall be recorded in the journal, but any 383 councilmember shall have the right to request a roll-call vote and such vote shall be recorded in the journal. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the affirmative vote of four
councilmembers or three councilmembers and the mayor shall be required for the adoption
of any ordinance, resolution, or motion. An abstention shall be counted as an affirmative
vote.

388

SECTION 2.21.

389Ordinance form; procedures.

(a) Every proposed ordinance should be introduced in writing and in the form required for
final adoption. No ordinance shall contain a subject which is not expressed in its title. The
enacting clause shall be "It is hereby ordained by the governing authority of the City of
East Cobb..." and every ordinance shall so begin.

394 (b) An ordinance may be introduced by any mayor or councilmember and be read at a 395 regular or special meeting of the city council. Ordinances shall be considered and adopted 396 or rejected by the city council in accordance with the rules which it shall establish; 397 provided, however, that an ordinance shall not be adopted the same day it is introduced, 398 except for emergency ordinances provided for in Section 2.23 of this charter. Upon 399 introduction of any ordinance, the clerk shall as soon as possible distribute a copy to the 400 mayor and to each councilmember and shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office 401 of the clerk and at such other public places as the city council may designate.

- 402 SECTION 2.22.
- 403 Action requiring an ordinance.

404 Acts of the city council which have the force and effect of law shall be enacted by ordinance.

SECTION 2.23.

3.

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407 (a) To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or public peace, the city 408 council may convene on call of the mayor or three councilmembers and may promptly 409 adopt an emergency ordinance, but such ordinance may not levy taxes; grant, renew, or 410 extend a franchise; regulate the rate charged by any public utility for its services; or 411 authorize the borrowing of money except for loans to be repaid within 30 days. An 412 emergency ordinance shall be introduced in the form prescribed for ordinances generally, 413 except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after 414 the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing the 415 emergency in clear and specific terms. An emergency ordinance may be adopted, with or 416 without amendment, or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative 417 vote of at least three councilmembers shall be required for adoption. It shall become 418 effective upon adoption or at such later time as it may specify. Every emergency ordinance 419 shall automatically stand repealed 30 days following the date upon which it was adopted, 420 but this shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this 421 section if the emergency still exists. An emergency ordinance may also be repealed by 422 adoption of a repealing ordinance in the same manner specified in this section for adoption 423 of emergency ordinances.

424 (b) Such meetings shall be open to the public to the extent required by law and notice to
425 the public of emergency meetings shall be made as fully as is reasonably possible in
426 accordance with Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as
427 are or may hereafter be enacted.

	22 HB 841/AP
428	SECTION 2.24.
429	Codes of technical regulations.
430	(a) The city council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference

thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such adopting ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally except that: (1) the requirements of subsection (b) of Section 2.21 of this charter for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to include copies of any code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance; and (2) a copy of each adopted code of technical regulations, as well as the adopting ordinance, shall be authenticated and recorded by the clerk pursuant to Section 2.25 of this charter.

(b) Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by theclerk for inspection by the public.

440 SECTION 2.25.

441 Signing; authenticating;

442 recording; codification; printing.

(a) The clerk shall authenticate by the clerk's signature and record in full in a properlyindexed book kept for that purpose all ordinances adopted by the city council.

(b) The city council shall provide for the preparation of a general codification of all the ordinances of the city having the force and effect of law. The general codification shall be adopted by the city council by ordinance and shall be published promptly, together with all amendments thereto and such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations as the city council may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as "The Code of the City of East Cobb, Georgia." Copies of the code shall be 451 furnished to all officers, departments, and agencies of the city and made available for452 purchase by the public at a reasonable price as fixed by the city council.

453 (c) The city council shall cause each ordinance and each amendment to this charter to be 454 printed promptly following its adoption, and the printed ordinances and charter 455 amendments shall be made available for purchase by the public at reasonable prices to be 456 fixed by the city council. Following publication of the first code under this charter and at 457 all times thereafter, the ordinances and charter amendments shall be printed in substantially 458 the same style as the code currently in effect and shall be suitable in form for incorporation 459 therein. The city council shall make such further arrangements as deemed desirable with 460 reproduction and distribution of any current changes in or additions to codes of technical 461 regulations and other rules and regulations included in the code.

462

SECTION 2.26.

463 Election of mayor; forfeiture; compensation.

The mayor shall be elected at large by the voters of the city and except for the initial mayor elected pursuant to this charter, serve for a term of four years and until a successor is elected and qualified. The mayor shall be a qualified elector of this city and shall have been a resident of the city for 12 months prior to the date of election. The mayor shall continue to reside in this city during the period of service. Vacancies in the office of mayor shall be addressed in the same manner as provided for councilmembers in Section 2.12 of this charter. The mayor shall forfeit the office on the same grounds and under the same procedure as for councilmembers. 472

473

SECTION 2.27.

Mayor pro tempore.

474 By a majority vote, the councilmembers shall elect a councilmember to serve as mayor pro 475 tempore. The mayor pro tempore shall serve a two-year term of office. The mayor pro 476 tempore shall assume the duties and powers of the mayor during the mayor's physical or 477 mental disability or absence. Any such disability or absence shall be declared by a majority 478 vote of the councilmembers. The mayor pro tempore shall sign all contracts and ordinances 479 in which the mayor has a disqualifying financial interest as provided in Section 2.14 of this 480 charter.

481 SECTION 2.28.482 Powers and duties of mayor.

483 The mayor shall:

484 (1) Preside at all meetings of the city council, but shall vote only in the event of a tie;

485 (2) Be the head of the city for the purpose of service of process and for ceremonial
486 purposes and be the official spokesperson for the city and the chief advocate of policy;
487 (3) Have the power to administer oaths and to take affidavits;

488 (4) Sign as a matter of course on behalf of the city all written and approved contracts,
489 ordinances, and other instruments executed by the city which by law are required to be
490 in writing;

491 (5) Prepare and submit to the city council a recommended annual operating budget and492 recommended capital budget; and

493 (6) Fulfill such other executive and administrative duties as the city council shall by494 ordinance establish.

22HB 841/AP495SECTION 2.29.496City manager; appointment; qualifications; compensation.

The city council shall appoint a city manager, also known as "the manager," for an indefinite
term and shall fix the manager's compensation. The city manager shall be appointed solely
on the basis of that person's executive and administrative qualifications.

- 500 SECTION 2.30.
- 501 Removal of city manager.

502 (a) The city council may remove the manager from office in accordance with the following503 procedures:

(1) The city council shall adopt by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members a
preliminary resolution which must state the reasons for removal and may suspend the
manager from duty for a period not to exceed 45 days. A copy of the resolution shall be
delivered promptly to the manager;

(2) Within five days after a copy of the resolution is delivered to the manager, the
manager may file with the city council a written request for a public hearing. This
hearing shall be held within 30 days after the request is filed. The manager may file with
the council a written reply not later than five days before the hearing; and

(3) If the manager has not requested a public hearing within the time specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the city council may adopt a final resolution for removal, which may be made effective immediately, by an affirmative vote of a majority of all its members. If the manager has requested a public hearing, the city council may adopt a final resolution for removal, which may be made effective immediately, by an affirmative vote of a majority of all its members at any time after the public hearing.

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(b) The manager may continue to receive a salary until the effective date of a finalresolution of removal.

520 SECTION 2.31.

521 Acting city manager.

522 By letter filed with the city clerk, the city manager shall designate, subject to approval of the 523 city council, a qualified city administrative officer to exercise the powers and perform the 524 duties of city manager during the city manager's temporary absence or physical or mental 525 disability. During such absence or disability, the city council may revoke such designation 526 at any time and appoint another officer of the city to serve until the city manager shall return 527 or the city manager's disability shall cease.

- 528 SECTION 2.32.
- 529 Powers and duties of the city manager.

530 The city manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the city. The city manager shall 531 be responsible to the city council for the administration of all city affairs placed in the city 532 manager's charge by or under this charter. As the chief administrative officer, the city 533 manager shall:

(1) Appoint and, when the city manager deems it necessary for the good of the city,
suspend or remove all city employees and administrative officers the city manager
appoints, except as otherwise provided by law or personnel ordinances adopted pursuant
to this charter. The city manager may authorize any department director or administrative
officer who is subject to the city manager's direction and supervision to exercise these
powers with respect to subordinates in that officer's department, office, or agency;

540 (2) Direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices, and agencies of541 the city, except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law;

542 (3) Attend all city council meetings except for closed meetings held for the purposes of
543 deliberating on the appointment, discipline, or removal of the city manager and have the
544 right to take part in discussion, but the city manager may not vote;

545 (4) See that all laws, provisions of this charter, and acts of the city council, subject to
546 enforcement by the city manager or by officers subject to the city manager's direction and
547 supervision, are faithfully executed;

548 (5) Prepare and submit the annual operating budget and capital budget to the city549 council;

(6) Submit to the city council and make available to the public a complete report on thefinances and administrative activities of the city as of the end of each fiscal year;

(7) Make such other reports as the city council may require concerning the operations
of city departments, offices, and agencies subject to the city manager's direction and
supervision;

(8) Keep the city council fully advised as to the financial condition and future needs of

- the city, and make such recommendations to the city council concerning the affairs of the
- 557 city as the city manager deems desirable; and

(9) Perform other such duties as are specified in this charter or as may be required by themayor and city council.

560

SECTION 2.33.

561 Council interference with administration.

562 Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under Section 2.15 of this charter, the 563 city council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the 564 direction and supervision of the city manager solely through the city manager, and neither the city council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately. The city council shall act in all matters as a body and no member shall seek individually to influence the official acts of the city manager or any other officer or employee of the city, or direct or request the appointment of any person to, or his or her removal from, any office or position of employment, or to interfere in any way with the performance of the duties by the city manager or other officers or employees.

571

572

ARTICLE III. ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

573

SECTION 3.10.

574 Administrative and service departments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the city council by ordinance shall
prescribe the functions or duties and establish, abolish, alter, consolidate, or leave vacant
all nonelective offices, positions of employment, departments, and agencies of the city as
necessary for the proper administration of the affairs and government of this city.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, the directors of departments
and other appointed officers of the city shall be appointed solely on the basis of their
respective administrative and professional qualifications.

(c) All appointed officers and directors of departments shall receive such compensationas prescribed by ordinance.

(d) There shall be a director of each department or agency who shall be its principal officer. Each director shall, subject to the direction and supervision of the mayor, be responsible for the administration and direction of the affairs and operations of that director's department or agency. (e) All appointed officers and directors under the supervision of the mayor shall be nominated by the mayor with confirmation of appointment by the city council. All appointed officers and directors shall be employees at will and subject to removal or suspension at any time by the mayor unless otherwise provided by law or ordinance.

592

SECTION 3.11.

593 Boards, commissions, and authorities.

(a) The city council shall create by ordinance such boards, commissions, and authorities
to fulfill any investigative, quasi-judicial, or quasi-legislative function the city council
deems necessary and shall by ordinance establish the composition, period of existence,
duties, and powers thereof.

(b) All members of boards, commissions, and authorities of the city shall be appointed by
the mayor and council for such terms of office and in such manner as shall be provided by
ordinance, except where other appointing authority, terms of office, or manner of
appointment is prescribed by this charter or by law.

602 (c) The city council by ordinance may provide for the compensation and reimbursement
603 for actual and necessary expenses of the members of any board, commission, or authority.
604 (d) Except as otherwise provided by charter or by law, no member of any board,
605 commission, or authority shall hold any elective office in the city.

606 (e) Any vacancy on a board, commission, or authority of the city shall be filled for the
607 unexpired term in the manner prescribed in this charter for original appointment, except as
608 otherwise provided by this charter or by law.

(f) No member of a board, commission, or authority shall assume office until that person

610 has executed and filed with the clerk of the city an oath obligating that person to perform

611 faithfully and impartially the duties of that person's office; such oath shall be prescribed

612 by ordinance and administered by the mayor.

(g) All members of boards, commissions, or authorities of the city serve at will and maybe removed at any time by the mayor and council unless otherwise provided by law.

615 (h) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, each board, commission, or 616 authority of the city shall elect one of its members as chairperson and one member as vice 617 chairperson and may elect as its secretary one of its own members or may appoint as 618 secretary an employee of the city. Each board, commission, or authority of the city 619 government may establish such bylaws, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with this 620 charter, ordinances of the city, or law, as it deems appropriate and necessary for the 621 fulfillment of its duties or the conduct of its affairs. Copies of such bylaws, rules, and 622 regulations shall be filed with the clerk of the city.

623 SECTION 3.12.

624 City attorney.

The mayor and council shall appoint a city attorney, together with such assistant city attorneys as may be authorized, and shall provide for the payment of such attorney or attorneys for services rendered to the city. The city attorney shall be responsible for providing for the representation and defense of the city in all litigation in which the city is a party; may be the prosecuting officer in the municipal court; shall attend the meetings of the city council as directed; shall advise the mayor and council and other officers and employees of the city concerning legal aspects of the city's affairs; and shall perform such other duties as may be required by virtue of such person's position as city attorney.

SECTION 3.13.

634

633

City clerk.

The city council shall appoint a city clerk who shall not be a councilmember. The city clerk
shall be custodian of the official city seal and city records; maintain city council records
required by this charter; and perform such other duties as may be required by the city
council.

639 SECTION 3.14.

640 Position classification and pay plans.

The city manager shall be responsible for the preparation of a position classification and pay plan which shall be submitted to the city council for approval. Such plan may apply to all employees of the city and any of its agencies, departments, boards, commissions, or authorities. When a pay plan has been adopted, the city council shall not increase or decrease the salary range applicable to any position except by amendment of such pay plan. For purposes of this section, all elected and appointed city officials are not city employees.

647 SECTION 3.15.648 Personnel policies.

649 All employees serve at will and may be removed from office at any time unless otherwise650 provided by ordinance.

	22 HB 841/AP
651	ARTICLE IV.
652	JUDICIAL BRANCH
653	SECTION 4.10.
654	Creation; name.
655	There shall be a court to be known as the Municipal Court of the City of East Cobb.
656	SECTION 4.11.
657	Chief judge; associate judge.
658	(a) The municipal court shall be presided over by a chief judge and such part-time,
659	full-time, or stand-by judges as shall be provided by ordinance.
660	(b) No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as a judge on the municipal court
661	unless that person shall have attained the age of 21 years and shall be a member of the State
662	Bar of Georgia and shall possess all qualifications required by law. All judges shall be
663	appointed by the city council and shall serve a term as provided by law and until a
664	successor is appointed and qualified.
665	(c) Compensation of the judges shall be fixed by ordinance.
666	(d) Judges may be removed from office as provided by law.
667	(e) Before assuming office, each judge shall take an oath, given by the mayor, that such
668	judge will honestly and faithfully discharge the duties of the judge's office to the best of
669	the judge's ability and without fear, favor, or partiality. The oath shall be entered upon the
670	minutes of the city council journal required in Section 2.19 of this charter.

SECTION 4.12.

672 Convening.

673 The municipal court shall be convened at regular intervals as provided by ordinance.

674

671

SECTION 4.13.

55 Jurisdiction; powers.

(a) The municipal court shall try and punish violations of this charter, all city ordinances,and such other violations as provided by law.

678 (b) The municipal court shall have authority to punish those in its presence for contempt,

679 provided that such punishment shall not exceed \$200.00 or ten days in jail.

(c) The municipal court may fix punishment for offenses within its jurisdiction not
exceeding a fine of \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for 180 days or both such fine and
imprisonment or may fix punishment by fine, imprisonment, or alternative sentencing, as
now or hereafter provided by law.

(d) The municipal court shall have authority to establish a schedule of fees to defray the
cost of operation and shall be entitled to reimbursement of the cost of meals, transportation,
and caretaking of prisoners bound over to superior courts for violations of state law.

687 (e) The municipal court shall have authority to establish bail and recognizances to ensure 688 the presence of those charged with violations before such court and shall have discretionary 689 authority to accept cash or personal or real property as surety for the appearance of persons 690 charged with violations. Whenever any person shall give bail for that person's appearance 691 and shall fail to appear at the time fixed for trial, that person's bond shall be forfeited by 692 the judge presiding at such time and an execution issued thereon by serving the defendant 693 and the defendant's sureties with a rule nisi at least two days before a hearing on the rule 694 nisi. In the event that cash or property is accepted in lieu of bond for security for the

> H. B. 841 - 30 -

appearance of a defendant at trial, and if such defendant fails to appear at the time and place fixed for trial, the cash so deposited shall be on order of the judge declared forfeited to the city, or the property so deposited shall have a lien against it for the value forfeited which lien shall be enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as a lien for city property taxes.

(f) The municipal court shall have the same authority as superior courts to compel the
production of evidence in the possession of any party; to enforce obedience to its orders,
judgments, and sentences; and to administer such oaths as are necessary.

(g) The municipal court may compel the presence of all parties necessary to a proper
disposal of each case by the issuance of summonses, subpoenas, and warrants which may
be served as executed by any officer as authorized by this charter or by law.

(h) Each judge of the municipal court shall be authorized to issue warrants for the arrest
of persons charged with offenses against any ordinance of the city, and each judge of the
municipal court shall have the same authority as a magistrate of the state to issue warrants
for offenses against state laws committed within the city.

- 710 SECTION 4.14.
- 711 Certiorari.

712 The right of certiorari from the decision and judgment of the municipal court shall exist in 713 all criminal cases and ordinance violation cases, and such certiorari shall be obtained under 714 the sanction of a judge of the Superior Court of Cobb County under the laws of the State of 715 Georgia regulating the granting and issuance of writs of certiorari.

22		HB
716	SECTION 4.15.	
717	Rules for court.	

841/AP

With the approval of the city council, the judge shall have full power and authority to make reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper to secure the efficient and successful administration of the municipal court; provided, however, that the city council may adopt in part or in toto the rules and regulations applicable to municipal courts. The rules and regulations made or adopted shall be filed with the city clerk, shall be available for public inspection, and, upon request, a copy shall be furnished to all defendants in municipal court proceedings at least 48 hours prior to such proceedings.

725	ARTICLE V.
726	ELECTIONS AND REMOVAL

- 727 SECTION 5.10.
- 728 Applicability of general law.

729 All primaries and elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2 of 730 Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," as now or hereafter amended.

- 731 SECTION 5.11.
- 732 Regular elections; time for holding.

733 Except as otherwise provided in Article VIII of this charter for the initial elections, there
734 shall be a municipal general election biennially in odd-numbered years on the Tuesday next
735 following the first Monday in November. There shall be elected a mayor and three
736 councilmembers at one election and at every other election thereafter. The remaining

737 councilmember seats shall be filled at the election alternating with the first election so that738 a continuing body is created.

- 739 SECTION 5.12.
 740 Nonpartisan elections.
 741 Political parties shall not conduct primaries for city offices, and all names of candidates for
 742 city offices shall be listed without party designations.
 - 743 SECTION 5.13.744 Election by majority vote.

The mayor and councilmembers shall be elected by a majority vote of the votes cast by theelectors of the city at large.

747 SECTION 5.14.

748 Special elections; vacancies.

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

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756 SECTION 5.15.

757 Other provisions.

Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the city council shall, by ordinance, prescribe
such rules and regulations as it deems appropriate to fulfill any options and duties under
Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

- 761 SECTION 5.16.
- 762 Removal of officers.

(a) The mayor or a councilmember or any appointed officers provided for in this charter
shall be removed from office for any one or more of the causes provided in Title 45 of the
O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

(b) Removal of an officer pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be accomplishedby one of the following methods:

(1) Following a hearing at which an impartial panel shall render a decision. In the event 768 769 an elected officer is sought to be removed by the action of the city council, such officer 770 shall be entitled to a written notice specifying the ground or grounds for removal and to 771 a public hearing which shall be held not less than ten days after the service of such 772 written notice. The city council shall provide by ordinance for the manner in which such 773 hearings shall be held. Any elected officer sought to be removed from office as provided 774 in this section shall have the right of appeal from the decision of the city council to the 775 Superior Court of Cobb County. Such appeal shall be governed by the same rules as 776 govern appeals to the superior court from the probate court; or

(2) By an order of the Superior Court of Cobb County following a hearing on acomplaint seeking such removal brought by any resident of the City of East Cobb.

	22	HB 841/AP
779	ARTICLE VI.	
780	FINANCE	
781	SECTION 6.10.	
782	Property tax.	

The city council may assess, levy, and collect an ad valorem tax on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of the city that is subject to such taxation by the state and county. This tax is for the purpose of raising revenues to defray the costs of operating the city government, of providing governmental services, for the repayment of principal and interest on general obligations, and for any other public purpose as determined by the city council in its discretion.

- 789 SECTION 6.11.
- 790 Millage rate; due dates; payment methods.

(a) The city council by ordinance shall establish a millage rate for the city property tax
which shall not exceed 1 mill, a due date, and the time period within which these taxes
must be paid, unless a higher millage rate is recommended by resolution of the city council
and subsequently approved by a majority of the eligible voters of the city by referendum.
(b) The city council by ordinance may provide for the payment of these taxes by
installments or in one lump sum, as well as authorize the voluntary payment of taxes prior
to the time when due.

798

SECTION 6.12.

799 Occupation and business taxes.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to levy such occupation or business taxes as are not denied by law. The city council may classify businesses, occupations, or professions for the purpose of such taxation in any way which may be lawful and may compel the payment of such taxes as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

805 Licenses; permits; fees.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to require businesses or practitioners doing business in this city to obtain a permit for such activity from the city and pay a regulatory fee for such permit as provided by general law. Such fees shall reflect the total cost to the city of regulating the activity and, if unpaid, shall be collected as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

- 811 SECTION 6.14.
- 812 Franchises.

(a) The city council shall have the power to grant franchises for the use of this city's streets
and alleys for the purposes of railroads, street railways, telephone companies, electric
companies, electric membership corporations, cable television and other
telecommunications companies, gas companies, transportation companies, and other
similar organizations. The city council shall determine the duration, terms, whether the
same shall be exclusive or nonexclusive, and the consideration for such franchises;
provided, however, that no franchise shall be granted for a period in excess of 35 years and

820 no franchise shall be granted unless the city receives just and adequate compensation 821 therefor. The city council shall provide for the registration of all franchises with the city 822 clerk in a registration book kept by the city clerk. The city council may provide by 823 ordinance for the registration within a reasonable time of all franchises previously granted. 824 (b) If no franchise agreement is in effect, the city council has the authority to impose a tax 825 on gross receipts for the use of this city's streets and alleys for the purposes of railroads, 826 street railways, telephone companies, electric companies, electric membership 827 corporations, cable television and other telecommunications companies, gas companies, 828 transportation companies, and other similar organizations.

829 SECTION 6.15.

830 Service charges.

The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess and collect fees, charges, and tolls for services provided or made available within and outside the corporate limits of the city for the total cost to the city of providing or making available such services. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter.

- 835 SECTION 6.16.
- 836 Special assessments.

837 The city council by ordinance shall have the power to assess and collect the cost of 838 constructing, reconstructing, widening, or improving any public way, street, sidewalk, 839 curbing, gutters, sewers, or other utility mains and appurtenances from the abutting property 840 owners. If unpaid, such charges shall be collected as provided in Section 6.18 of this charter. 841

SECTION 6.17.

842 Construction; other taxes.

This city shall be empowered to levy any other tax or fee allowed now or hereafter by law, and the specific mention of any right, power, or authority in this article shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general powers of this city to govern its local affairs.

846 SECTION 6.18.847 Collection of delinquent taxes and fees.

The city council by ordinance may provide generally for the collection of delinquent taxes, fees, or other revenue due the city under Sections 6.10 through 6.17 of this charter by whatever reasonable means as are not precluded by law. This shall include providing for the dates when the taxes or fees are due; late penalties or interest; issuance and execution of fi. fas.; creation and priority of liens; making delinquent taxes and fees personal debts of the persons required to pay the taxes or fees imposed; revoking city permits for failure to pay any city taxes or fees; and providing for the assignment or transfer of tax executions.

- 855 SECTION 6.19.
- 856 General obligation bonds.

The city council shall have the power to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project, program, or venture authorized under this charter or the laws of the state. Such bonding authority shall be exercised in accordance with the laws governing bond issuance by municipalities in effect at the time said issue is undertaken. 861 SECTION 6.20.

862 Revenue bonds.

863 Revenue bonds may be issued by the city council as state law now or hereafter provides.

864 Such bonds are to be paid out of any revenue produced by the project, program, or venture 865 for which they were issued.

The city may obtain short-term loans and must repay such loans not later than December 31of each year, unless otherwise provided by law.

- 870 SECTION 6.22.
- 871 Lease-purchase contracts.

The city may enter into multiyear lease, purchase, or lease-purchase contracts for the acquisition of goods, materials, real and personal property, services, and supplies, provided the contract terminates without further obligation on the part of the municipality at the close of the calendar year in which it was executed and at the close of each succeeding calendar year for which it may be renewed. Contracts must be executed in accordance with the requirements of Code Section 36-60-13 of the O.C.G.A., or other such applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

879 SECTION 6.23.

880

Fiscal year.

881 The city council shall set the fiscal year by ordinance. This fiscal year shall constitute the 882 budget year and the year for financial accounting and reporting of each and every office, 883 department, agency, and activity of the city government.

The city council shall provide an ordinance on the procedures and requirements for the preparation and execution of an annual operating budget, a capital improvement plan, and a capital budget, including requirements as to the scope, content, and form of such budgets and plans. The city council shall also comply with the budgeting and auditing provisions of Chapter 81 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A.

892 Operating budget.

893 On or before a date fixed by the city council but not later than 60 days prior to the beginning 894 of each fiscal year, the city manager shall submit to the city council a proposed operating 895 budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall be accompanied by a message from the 896 city manager containing a statement of the general fiscal policies of the city, the important 897 features of the budget, explanations of major changes recommended for the next fiscal year, 898 a general summary of the budget, and other pertinent comments and information. The 899 operating budget and the capital budget provided for in Section 6.29 of this charter, the 900 budget message, and all supporting documents shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and901 shall be open to public inspection.

902

SECTION 6.26.

903 Action by city council on budget.

(a) The mayor or councilmembers may amend the operating budget proposed by the city
manager, except that the budget as finally amended and adopted must provide for all
expenditures required by state law or by other provisions of this charter and for all debt
service requirements for the ensuing fiscal year. The total appropriations from any fund
shall not exceed the estimated fund balance, reserves, and revenues.

909 (b) The city council by ordinance shall adopt the final operating budget for the ensuing 910 fiscal year not later than December 15 of each year. If the city council fails to adopt the 911 budget by said date, the amounts appropriated for operation for the then current fiscal year 912 shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year on a month-to-month basis, with all 913 items prorated accordingly, until such time as the city council adopts a budget for the 914 ensuing fiscal year. Adoption of the budget shall take the form of an appropriations 915 ordinance setting out the estimated revenues in detail by sources and making appropriations 916 according to fund and by organizational unit, purpose, or activity as set out in the budget 917 preparation ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 6.24 of this charter.

918 (c) The amount set out in the adopted operating budget for each organizational unit shall 919 constitute the annual appropriation for such, and no expenditure shall be made or 920 encumbrance created in excess of the otherwise unencumbered balance of the 921 appropriations or allotment thereof to which it is chargeable. 922

923

SECTION 6.27.

Levy of taxes.

The city council shall levy by ordinance such taxes as are necessary. The taxes and tax rates set by such ordinance shall be such that reasonable estimates of revenues from such levy shall at least be sufficient, together with other anticipated revenues, fund balances, and applicable reserves, to equal the total amount appropriated for each of the several funds set forth in the annual operating budget for defraying the expenses of the general government of this city.

930 SECTION 6.28.

931 Changes in appropriations.

932 The city council by ordinance may make changes in the appropriations contained in the 933 current operating budget at any regular meeting or special or emergency meeting called for 934 such purpose, but any additional appropriations may be made only from an existing 935 unexpended surplus.

- 936 SECTION 6.29.
- 937 Capital improvements.

(a) On or before the date fixed by the city council, but not later than 60 days prior to the
beginning of each fiscal year, the city manager shall submit to the city council a proposed
capital improvements plan with a recommended capital budget containing the means of
financing the improvements proposed for the ensuing fiscal year. The city council shall
have power to accept, with or without amendments, or reject the proposed plan and budget.
The city council shall not authorize an expenditure for the construction of any building,

structure, work, or improvement unless the appropriations for such project are included in
the capital budget, except to meet a public emergency as provided in Section 2.23 of this
charter.

(b) The city council shall adopt by ordinance the final capital budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than December 15 of each year. No appropriation provided for in a prior capital budget shall lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation was made shall have been accomplished or abandoned; provided, however, that the city manager may submit amendments to the capital budget at any time during the fiscal year, accompanied by recommendations. Any such amendments to the capital budget shall become effective only upon adoption by ordinance.

- 954 SECTION 6.30.
- 955 Audits.

956 There shall be an annual independent audit of all city accounts, funds, and financial 957 transactions by a certified public accountant selected by the city council. The audit shall be 958 conducted according to generally accepted auditing principles. Any audit of any funds by 959 the state or federal governments may be accepted as satisfying the requirements of this 960 charter. Copies of annual audit reports shall be available at printing costs to the public.

961

SECTION 6.31.

962 Procurement and property management.

963 No contract with the city shall be binding on the city unless:

964 (1) It is in writing;

965 (2) It is drawn by or submitted and reviewed by the city attorney and, as a matter of 966 course, is signed by the city attorney to indicate such drafting or review; and (3) It is made or authorized by the city council and such approval is entered in the citycouncil journal of proceedings pursuant to Section 2.19 of this charter.

969

SECTION 6.32.

970

Purchasing.

971 The city council shall by ordinance prescribe procedures for a system of centralized 972 purchasing for the city.

- 973 SECTION 6.33.
- 974 Sale and lease of property.

(a) The city council may sell and convey or lease any real or personal property owned or
held by the city for governmental or other purposes as now or hereafter provided by law.
(b) The city council may quitclaim any rights it may have in property not needed for public
purposes upon report by the city manager and adoption of a resolution, both finding that
the property is not needed for public or other purposes and that the interest of the city has
no readily ascertainable monetary value.

981 (c) Whenever in opening, extending, or widening any street, avenue, alley, or public place 982 of the city a small parcel or tract of land is cut off or separated by such work from a larger 983 tract or boundary of land owned by the city, the city council may authorize the mayor to 984 sell and convey said cut-off or separated parcel or tract of land to an abutting or adjoining 985 property owner or owners where such sale and conveyance facilitates the highest and best 986 use of the abutting owner's property. Included in the sales contract shall be a provision for 987 the rights of way of said street, avenue, alley, or public place. Each abutting property 988 owner shall be notified of the availability of the property and given the opportunity to 989 purchase said property under such terms and conditions as set out by ordinance. All deeds

and conveyances heretofore and hereafter so executed and delivered shall convey all title

and interest the city has in such property, notwithstanding the fact that no public sale after

advertisement was or is hereafter made.

993 SECTION 6.34.

994 Apportionment of revenue.

995 Except as otherwise agreed pursuant to Chapter 70 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the city is
996 authorized to pay all revenues collected by Cobb County on behalf of the city to the county
997 in exchange for continuation of services during the transition period provided in Section 8.11
998 of this charter and beyond, with the exception of the following revenues, which shall stay
999 with the city:

1000 (1) New revenues from utility franchise fees;

1001 (2) Fines collected in municipal court; and

1002 (3) Revenues generated from any additional millage of up to 1 mill above the millage

1003 rate imposed in the county special service district.

1004ARTICLE VII.1005GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1006 SECTION 7.10.
- 1007 Bonds for officials.

The officers and employees of this city, both elected and appointed, shall execute such surety
or fidelity bonds in such amounts and upon such terms and conditions as the city council
shall from time to time require by ordinance or as may be provided by law.

22

	22 HB 841/AP	
1011	SECTION 7.11.	
1012	Construction and definitions.	
1013	(a) Section captions in this charter are informative only and are not to be considered as a	
1014	part thereof.	
1015	(b) The word "shall" is mandatory and the word "may" is permissive.	
1016	(c) The singular shall include the plural, the masculine shall include the feminine, and vice	
1017	versa.	
1018	ARTICLE VIII.	
1019	REFERENDUM AND INITIAL ELECTIONS	
1020	SECTION 8.10.	
1021	Referendum and initial election.	
1022	(a) The election superintendent of Cobb County shall call a special election for the purpose	
1023	of submitting this Act to the qualified voters of the proposed City of East Cobb for	
1024	approval or rejection. The superintendent shall set the date of such election for the date of	
1025	the 2022 general primary election. The superintendent shall issue the call for such election	
1026	at least 30 days prior to the date thereof. The superintendent shall cause the date and	
1027	purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding	
1028	the date thereof in the official organ of Cobb County. The ballot shall have written or	
1029	printed thereon the words:	
1030	"() YES Shall the Act incorporating the City of East Cobb in Cobb County according	
1031	() NO to the charter contained in the Act be approved?"	
1032	All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and those persons	
1033	desiring to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes	
	H. B. 841	
	11. D. 041	

H. B. 841 - 46 - 1034 cast on such question are for approval of the Act, it shall become of full force and effect 1035 as provided in Section 8.11 of this charter, otherwise it shall be void and of no force and 1036 effect. The initial expense of such election shall be borne by Cobb County. Within two 1037 years after the elections if the incorporation is approved, the City of East Cobb shall 1038 reimburse Cobb County for the actual cost of printing and personnel services for such 1039 election and for the initial election of the mayor and councilmembers pursuant to this 1040 charter. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to hold and conduct such election. It 1041 shall be his or her further duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

1042 (b) For the purposes of the referendum election provided for in subsection (a) of this 1043 section and for the purposes of the special election of the City of East Cobb to be held on 1044 the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, 2022, the qualified electors of the 1045 City of East Cobb shall be those qualified electors of Cobb County residing within the 1046 corporate limits of the City of East Cobb as described by Appendix A of this charter. At 1047 subsequent municipal elections, the qualified electors of the City of East Cobb shall be 1048 determined pursuant to the authority of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A. known as the 1049 "Georgia Election Code."

(c) Only for the purposes of holding and conducting the referendum election provided for in subsection (a) of this section and holding the special election of the City of East Cobb to be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, 2022, the election superintendent of Cobb County is vested with the powers and duties of the election superintendent of the City of East Cobb and the powers and duties of the governing authority of the City of East Cobb.

	22 HB 841/AP
1056	SECTION 8.11.
1057	Effective dates and transition.
1058	(a) The provisions of this Act necessary for the referendum election provided for in
1059	Section 8.10 of this charter shall become effective immediately upon this Act's approval
1060	by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.
1061	(b) Those provisions of this Act necessary for the special election provided for in Section
1062	8.13 of this charter shall be effective upon the certification of the results of the referendum
1063	election provided for by Section 8.10 of this charter if this Act is approved at such
1064	referendum election.
1065	(c) Except as provided in Section 8.10 of this charter, the remaining provisions of this Act
1066	shall become of full force and effect for all purposes at 12:00 Midnight on January 1, 2023,
1067	except that the initial mayor or councilmembers shall take office immediately following
1068	their election and by action of a quorum may prior to 12:00 Midnight on January 1, 2023,
1069	meet and take actions binding on the city.
1070	(d) A period of time will be needed for an orderly transition of various government
1071	functions from Cobb County to the City of East Cobb. Accordingly there shall be a
1072	transition period beginning on the date the initial mayor and councilmembers take office
1073	under this charter, and ending at 12:00 Midnight on December 31, 2025. During such
1074	transition period, all provisions of this charter shall be effective as law, but not all
1075	provisions of this charter shall be implemented.
1076	(e) During such transition period, Cobb County shall continue to provide within the
1077	territorial limits of the city all government services and functions which Cobb County
1078	provided in that area during the years 2021 and 2022 and at the same actual cost, except
1079	to the extent otherwise provided in this section; provided, however, that upon at least 60
1080	days' prior written notice to Cobb County by the City of East Cobb, responsibility for any
1081	such service or function shall be transferred to the City of East Cobb. During the transition

1082 period, the city shall remain within the Cobb County special services district, but shall be 1083 removed from such district at the conclusion of such period. Beginning July 1, 2023, the City of East Cobb shall collect taxes, fees, assessments, fines and forfeitures. and other 1084 1085 moneys within the territorial limits of the city in the same manner as authorized 1086 immediately prior to the effective date of this section; provided, however, that upon at 1087 least 60 days' prior written notice to Cobb County by the City of East Cobb, the authority 1088 to collect any tax, fee, assessment, fine or forfeiture, or other moneys shall remain with 1089 Cobb County after July 1, 2023, until such time as Cobb County receives subsequent notice 1090 from the City of East Cobb that such authority shall be transferred to the City of East Cobb. 1091 (f) During the transition period, the governing authority of the City of East Cobb: 1092 (1) Shall hold regular meetings and may hold special meetings as provided in this 1093 charter; 1094 (2) May enact ordinances and resolutions as provided in this charter; 1095 (3) May amend this charter by home rule action as provided by general law; 1096 (4) May accept gifts and grants; 1097 (5) May borrow money and incur indebtedness to the extent authorized by this charter 1098 and general law; 1099 (6) May levy and collect an ad valorem tax for calendar years 2023 and 2024: 1100 (7) May establish a fiscal year and budget; 1101 (8) May create, alter, or abolish departments, boards, offices, commissions, and agencies 1102 of the city; appoint and remove officers and employees; and exercise all necessary or 1103 appropriate personnel and management functions; and 1104 (9) May generally exercise any power granted by this charter or general law, except to 1105 the extent that a power is specifically and integrally related to the provision of a 1106 governmental service, function, or responsibility not yet provided or carried out by the 1107 city.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, during the transition period, the 1108 (g) 1109 Municipal Court of the City of East Cobb shall not exercise its jurisdiction. During the 1110 transition period, all ordinances of Cobb County shall remain applicable within the 1111 territorial limits of the city and the appropriate court or courts of Cobb County shall retain 1112 jurisdiction to enforce such ordinances. However, by mutual agreement and concurrent 1113 resolutions and ordinances if needed Cobb County and the City of East Cobb may during 1114 the transition period transfer all or part of such regulatory authority and the appropriate 1115 court jurisdiction to the City of East Cobb. Any transfer of jurisdiction to the City of East 1116 Cobb during or at the end of the transition period shall not in and of itself abate any judicial 1117 proceeding pending in Cobb County or the pending prosecution of any violation of any 1118 ordinance of Cobb County.

1119 (h) During the transition period, the governing authority of the City of East Cobb may at 1120 any time, without the necessity of any agreement by Cobb County, commence to exercise 1121 its planning and zoning powers; provided, however, that the city shall give the county 1122 notice of the date on which the city will assume the exercise of such powers. Upon the 1123 governing authority of the City of East Cobb commencing to exercise its planning and 1124 zoning powers, the Municipal Court of the City of East Cobb shall immediately have 1125 jurisdiction to enforce the planning and zoning ordinances of the city. The provisions of 1126 this subsection shall control over any conflicting provisions of any other subsection of this 1127 section.

(i) Effective upon the termination of the transition period, subsections (b) through (h) of
this section shall cease to apply except for the last sentence of subsection (g) which shall
remain effective. Effective upon the termination of the transition period, the City of East
Cobb shall be a full functioning municipal corporation and subject to all general laws of
this state.

22		HB 841/AP
1133	SECTION 8.12.	
1134	Directory nature of dates.	

1135 It is the intention of the General Assembly that this Act be construed as directory rather than 1136 mandatory with respect to any date prescribed in this Act. If it is necessary to delay any 1137 action called for in this Act for providential cause or any other reason, it is the intention of 1138 the General Assembly that the action be delayed rather than abandoned. Any delay in 1139 performing any action under this Act, whether for cause or otherwise, shall not operate to 1140 frustrate the overall intent of this Act. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing it is 1141 specifically provided that:

(1) If it is not possible to hold the referendum election provided for in Section 8.10 of
this charter on the date specified in that section, then such referendum shall be held as
soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable; and

(2) If it is not possible to hold the first election provided for in Section 8.13 of this charter on the date specified in that section, then there shall be a special election for the initial members of the governing authority to be held as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable, and the commencement of the initial terms of office shall be delayed accordingly.

- 1150 SECTION 8.13.
- 1151 Special election.

(a) The first election for the mayor and councilmembers shall be a special election held on
the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2022. At such election, the first mayor
and councilmembers shall be elected to serve for the initial terms of office specified in
subsections (b) and (c) of this section. Thereafter, the time for holding a regular municipal
elections shall be on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November of each

1157 odd-numbered year beginning in 2025. The successors to the first mayor and initial 1158 councilmembers and future successors shall take office at the first organizational meeting 1159 in January immediately following their election and shall serve for terms of four years and 1160 until their respective successors are elected and qualified. 1161 (b) The initial councilmembers elected from Post 2, Post 4, and Post 6 shall serve a term 1162 of office ending on December 31, 2025, and until their respective successors are elected 1163 and qualified. The initial mayor and councilmembers elected from Post 1, Post 3, and 1164 Post 5 shall serve a term of office ending on December 31, 2027, and until their respective 1165 successors are elected and qualified. Thereafter, successors to such initial mayor and

councilmembers shall serve four-year terms of office and until their respective successorsare elected and qualified.

1168ARTICLE IX.1169GENERAL REPEALER

1170	SECTION 9.10

1171 General repealer.

1172 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

	22 HB 841/AP
1173	APPENDIX A
1174	LEGAL DESCRIPTION
1175	CITY OF EAST COBB, GEORGIA
1176	User: H045
1177	Plan Name: EastCobb-2022
1178	Plan Type: Local
1179	District EASTCOBB
1180	County Cobb GA
1181	VTD Chestnut Ridge 01
1182	VTD Dickerson 01
1183	VTD Dodgen 01
1184	VTD Eastside 01
1185	VTD Fullers Park 01
1186	Block 030332:
1187	2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2012
1188	Block 030366:
1189	1001 2000 2001 2002 2003
1190	VTD Hightower 01
1191	VTD Mount Bethel 01
1192	VTD Mount Bethel 03
1193	VTD Mount Bethel 04
1194	VTD Murdock 01
1195	Block 030331:
1196	3000 3001 3002 3003 3004 3005 3006 3007 3008 3009 3010 3011

- 1197 3012 3013 3014 4000 4001 4002 4003 4004 4005 4006 4007
- 1198 VTD Pope 01
- 1199 Block 030327:
- 1200 3000 3001 3002 3003 3004 3005 3011
- 1201 Block 030359:
- 1202 1010 1011
- 1203 VTD Roswell 01
- 1204 Block 030335:
- 1205 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 2002
- 1206 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2011 2012 4000 4001 4002
- 1207 4003 4004 4005 4006
- 1208 Block 030360:
- 1209 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005
- 1210 VTD Roswell 02
- 1211 VTD Sewell Mill 01
- 1212 Block 030358:
- 1213 2001 2002 2003 2007 2008
- 1214 VTD Sope Creek 01
- 1215 VTD Sope Creek 03
- 1216 Block 030352:
- 1217 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011
- 1218 1012 1013 1014
- 1219 Block 030354:
- 1220 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 3000
- 1221 excluding portion of block 3006 that is part of National Park
- 1222 excluding portion of block 3007 that is part of National Park
- 1223 VTD Timber Ridge 01

1224 For the purposes of such plan, EastCobb-2021:

(1) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as
provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census
of 2020 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district
description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual
Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United
States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia; and

(2) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the
description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical
boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial

1234 census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

	22 HB 841/AP
1235	APPENDIX B
1236	City Council Districts
1237	User: H045
1238	Plan Name: EastCobb-dist-2022
1239	Plan Type: Local
1240	District 001
1241	County Cobb GA
1242	VTD Chestnut Ridge 01
1243	VTD Hightower 01
1244	VTD Murdock 01
1245	Block 030331:
1246	3000 3001 3002 3003 3004 3005 3006 3007 3008 3009 3010 3011
1247	3012 3013 3014 4000 4001 4002 4003 4004 4005 4006 4007
1248	VTD Pope 01
1249	Block 030327:
1250	3000 3001 3002 3003 3004 3005 3011
1251	Block 030359:
1252	1010 1011
1253	VTD Roswell 01
1254	Block 030335:
1255	1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 2002
1256	2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2011 2012 4000 4001 4002
1257	4003 4004 4005 4006
1258	Block 030360:
1259	2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

HB 841/AP

- 1260 VTD Roswell 02
- 1261 Block 030331:
- 1262 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007
- 1263 Block 030369:
- 1264 2002 2003
- 1265 District 002
- 1266 County Cobb GA
- 1267 VTD Dickerson 01
- 1268 VTD Dodgen 01
- 1269 VTD Eastside 01
- 1270 VTD Fullers Park 01
- 1271 Block 030332:
- 1272 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2012
- 1273 Block 030366:
- 1274 1001 2000 2001 2002 2003
- 1275 VTD Mount Bethel 01
- 1276 Block 030370:
- 1277 1004 1005 1006 3000 3002
- 1278 VTD Roswell 02
- 1279 Block 030369:
- 1280 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011
- 1281 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 2000 2001 2004 2005 2006
- 1282 VTD Sewell Mill 01
- 1283 Block 030358:
- 1284 2001 2002 2003 2007 2008
- 1285 VTD Timber Ridge 01

1286 District 003

- 1287 County Cobb GA
- 1288 VTD Mount Bethel 01
- 1289 Block 030319:
- 1290 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004
- 1291 Block 030337:
- 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011
- 1293 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 3000 3001 3002 3003
- 1294
 3004
 3005
 3006
 3007
 3008
 3009
 3010
- 1295 Block 030370:
- 1296 3004
- 1297 VTD Mount Bethel 03
- 1298 VTD Mount Bethel 04
- 1299 VTD Sope Creek 01
- 1300 VTD Sope Creek 03
- 1301 Block 030352:
- 1302 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011
- 1303 1012 1013 1014
- 1304 Block 030354:
- 1305 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 3000
- 1306 excluding portion of block 3006 that is part of National Park
- 1307 excluding portion of block 3007 that is part of National Park

APPENDIX C

1309 CERTIFICATE AS TO MINIMUM STANDARDS1310 FOR INCORPORATION OF A NEW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

1311 I, Representative Matt Dollar, Georgia State Representative from the 45th District and the 1312 author of this bill introduced at the 2021 session of the General Assembly of Georgia, which 1313 grants an original municipal charter to the City of East Cobb, do hereby certify that this bill 1314 is in compliance with the minimum standards required by Chapter 31 of Title 36 of the 1315 O.C.G.A. in that the area embraced within the original incorporation in this bill is in all 1316 respects in compliance with the minimum standards required by Chapter 31 of Title 36 of the 1317 O.C.G.A. This certificate is executed to conform to the requirements of Code 1318 Section 36-31-5 of the O.C.G.A.

1319 So certified this ______ day of _____, 2022.

1320	
1321	
1322	Honorable Matt Dollar
1323	Representative, 45th District
1324	Georgia State House of Representatives

1320