

House Bill 1073 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Watson of the 172nd, Jasperse of the 11th, Corbett of the 174th, and England of the 116th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 62 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 development authorities, so as to provide for the creation of regional development
3 authorities; to provide an enhancement for the jobs tax credit for such authorities; to provide
4 for a grant program for primary care medical facilities; to provide for a definition; to provide
5 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 62 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to development
9 authorities, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "36-62-5.2.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'participating counties' means all counties party
12 to a proper joint resolution as set forth in subsection (b) of this Code section.

13 (b) By proper joint resolution of the local governing bodies, an authority, to be known as
14 a regional development authority, may be created and activated by any group of three to
15 five contiguous counties, provided that at least one-half of the members of the governing
16 body from each county have completed a basic economic development training course
17 certified by the Department of Community Affairs as meeting certain minimum educational
18 standards, which it shall prescribe by rule and regulation.

19 (c) A regional development authority so created shall be governed by this chapter in the
20 same manner as other authorities created pursuant to this chapter, except as specifically
21 provided otherwise in this Code section.

22 (d) A joint resolution creating and activating a regional development authority shall
23 specify the total number of members of the governing body of the authority, the number
24 of such members to be appointed by each participating county, their respective terms of
25 office, and their residency requirements.

26 (e) A joint resolution creating and activating a regional development authority may be
 27 amended from time to time by appropriate concurrent joint resolutions of the regional
 28 development authority and all of the participating counties.

29 (f) Each regional development authority created pursuant to this Code section shall:

30 (1) Be an active, bona fide authority;

31 (2) Have a board of directors;

32 (3) Meet at least quarterly;

33 (4) Develop an operational business plan;

34 (5) Own property lying within one or more of the participating counties with all of the
 35 participating counties; and

36 (6) Maintain among itself and the participating counties an active intergovernmental
 37 agreement that provides for sharing both the expense, as well as proceeds generated from
 38 ad valorem taxes assessed and collected on all real property described in paragraph (5)
 39 of this subsection, excluding proceeds that are pledged to secure bonded indebtedness or
 40 dedicated by law to specific purposes inconsistent with such sharing.

41 (g) A county shall not belong to more than one regional development authority.

42 (h) A business enterprise, as defined under subsection (a) of Code Section 48-7-40, that
 43 is located on property as described in paragraph (5) of subsection (f) of this Code section
 44 shall be eligible to qualify for a tax credit for each new full-time employee position in the
 45 amount allowed by Code Section 48-7-40 for the lowest tier participating county within the
 46 regional development authority.

47 (i) One Georgia Authority shall establish a grant program, subject to available funding, for
 48 primary care medical facilities. Regional development authorities shall be eligible to make
 49 application to One Georgia Authority for and obtain grants for primary care medical
 50 facilities located within such regional authorities' respective jurisdictions pursuant to such
 51 grant program."

52 **SECTION 3.**

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