

House Bill 535 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Allison of the 8<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to create the Rabun County Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority,  
2 approved May 6, 2005 (Ga. L. 2005, p. 3878), so as to revise the composition of the board  
3 of directors; to revise the budget schedule; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 An Act to create the Rabun County Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority, approved  
8 May 6, 2005 (Ga. L. 2005, p. 3878), is amended by revising subsection (b) of Section 4 as  
9 follows:

10 "(b) Beginning in January 2015, the board of directors shall consist of a minimum of 11  
11 members and a maximum of 13 members. This number shall be achieved through attrition  
12 as the terms of the present members of the board expire in 2013 and 2014. Directors shall  
13 be nominated by a nominating committee appointed in October of each year by the  
14 chairperson of the board. The nominating committee shall present a slate of nominees to  
15 the board at the January meeting of the board. The board shall then vote on the slate of  
16 nominees at the January meeting. The nominating committee shall strive to select  
17 nominees actively involved in the travel and tourism industry. Directors shall be elected  
18 to two-year terms of office. Any director may resign at any time by filing a written notice  
19 of resignation with the chairperson of the board. Directors may be removed for cause by  
20 a majority vote of the directors of the authority. Directors should be representatives of any  
21 of the following tourism related bodies:

- 22 (1) Rabun County resort properties;  
23 (2) Rabun County motel industry;  
24 (3) Rabun County bed and breakfast industry;  
25 (4) Clayton merchants;  
26 (5) Dillard merchants;

- 27 (6) State or federal government, such as Georgia State Parks or United States Forest  
 28 Service;
- 29 (7) Outdoor recreation industry;
- 30 (8) Agricultural tourism industry;
- 31 (9) Environmental or conservation groups;
- 32 (10) Rabun County restaurants, including at least one major restaurant;
- 33 (11) Rabun County utility providers, such as Georgia Power;
- 34 (12) Rabun County banking industry;
- 35 (13) Rabun County realtors;
- 36 (14) Rabun County property rental companies; and
- 37 (15) At-large members.
- 38 Any Rabun County city providing a minimum of 25 percent of its hotel and motel tax  
 39 receipts to fund the authority may nominate a representative."

40 **SECTION 2.**

41 Said act is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Section 8 as follows:

42 "(b) On or before October 1 of each year, the authority shall receive its accounting report  
 43 for the prior year verified by a board approved accredited third party. Not later than the  
 44 regular January board meeting, the chairperson of the board shall appoint one director of  
 45 the authority to confer jointly with the administrators or mayor of each city that collects  
 46 hotel and motel taxes and with the county administrator and to act as liaison with regard  
 47 to a proposed budget for the authority for the ensuing year. Such persons shall annually  
 48 be known as the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee shall produce a proposed  
 49 budget for approval by the board and submission, by March 1 of each year, to the mayors  
 50 and councils of the cities that collect hotel and motel taxes and to the county board of  
 51 commissioners. If the Budget Committee does not unanimously present a proposed budget  
 52 for approval and submission, then the board shall submit a continuation budget not greater  
 53 than the total approved budget for the current year. The continuation budget shall include  
 54 any upward or downward adjustment necessary to meet all debt service requirements. If  
 55 either the cities or county, or both, shall fail or refuse to approve the budget as submitted  
 56 by the board by June 30, then the continuation budget, as set forth above, shall become  
 57 automatically effective in order to ensure operational continuity of the authority.  
 58 Commencing Fiscal Year 2005, the cities and county shall each be required to provide  
 59 funding to the authority as provided in paragraph (5.3) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the  
 60 O.C.G.A. The continuation budget as set forth above shall remain in effect until the next  
 61 budget cycle. In the event of a failure to reach budget agreement at that time or in  
 62 subsequent years, then a percentage increase shall automatically apply to all line items of

63 the budget equivalent to the percentage increase for the relevant time period as determined  
64 by the Blue Book CPI index for all consumer goods."

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**SECTION 3.**

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