House Bill 691

By: Representatives Burns of the 159th, McCall of the 33rd, Roberts of the 155th, and Tankersley of the 160th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to sales
- 2 and use tax, so as to provide for the comprehensive revision of the joint county and
- 3 municipal sales and use tax and reenactment as the roll-back option sales and use tax; to
- 4 provide for a short title, definitions, procedures, conditions, and limitations; to provide for
- 5 the authority for such revision and reenactment; to provide for related matters; to provide for
- 6 a contingent effective date; to provide for automatic repeal under certain circumstances; to
- 7 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

- 10 Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to sales and use tax,
- is amended by revising Article 2, relating to the joint county and municipal sales and use tax,
- 12 as follows:
- 13 "ARTICLE 2
- 14 48-8-80.
- 15 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Roll-back Option Sales and Use Tax
- 16 <u>Act.'</u>
- 17 <u>48-8-81.</u>
- 18 As used in this article, the term 'qualified municipality' means only those incorporated
- municipalities which impose a tax other than the tax authorized by this article and which
- 20 provide at least three of the following services:
- 21 (1) Water;
- 22 (2) Sewage;
- 23 (3) Garbage collection;

- 24 (4) Police protection;
- 25 (5) Fire protection; or
- 26 (6) Library.
- 27 48-8-81. 48-8-82.
- 28 (a) This chapter is enacted pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section IV, Paragraph
- 29 <u>V of the Constitution.</u>
- 30 (b) Pursuant to the requirements and authority of Article IX, Section IV, Paragraph V and
- 31 the authority granted by Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VI of the Constitution of this
- 32 state, there are created within this state 159 special districts. The geographical boundary
- of each county shall correspond with and shall be conterminous with the geographical
- boundary of one of the 159 special districts.
- 35 48-8-82. <u>48-8-83.</u>
- When the imposition of a joint county and municipal roll-back option sales and use tax is
- authorized according to the procedures provided in this article within a special district, the
- 38 county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district and
- 39 each qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district shall levy
- 40 <u>a joint sales and use such</u> tax at the rate of 1 percent, except as otherwise provided in Code
- 41 <u>Section 48-8-96</u>. Except as to rate, the joint such tax shall correspond to the tax imposed
- and administered by Article 1 of this chapter. No item or transaction which is not subject
- to taxation by Article 1 of this chapter shall be subject to the tax levied pursuant to this
- article, except that the joint tax provided in this article shall be applicable to sales of motor
- fuels as prepaid local tax as that term is defined in Code Section 48-8-2 and shall be
- applicable to the sale of food and food ingredients and alcoholic beverages only to the
- extent provided for in paragraph (57) of Code Section 48-8-3.
- 48 48-8-83. <u>48-8-84.</u>
- 49 Effective January 1, 1980 2015, the joint roll-back option sales and use tax provided in
- 50 Code Section 48-8-82 for under this article shall be levied automatically by operation of
- 51 <u>law without the need of a referendum</u> in each special district in which <u>immediately</u> prior
- 52 to January 1, 1980 <u>2015</u>, a joint county and municipal sales and use tax was levied pursuant
- 53 to Ga. L. 1975, p. 984, Section 2 (as amended by Ga. L. 1975, Ex. Sess., p. 1729, Section
- 54 1; Ga. L. 1976, p. 1019, Sections 1-13; Ga. L. 1977, p. 1008, Section 1; Ga. L. 1978, p.
- 55 1429, Sections 1-3; Ga. L. 1978, p. 1460, Sections 1-3; Ga. L. 1978, p. 1678, Section 1; Ga.
- 56 L. 1978, p. 1695, Section 1; Ga. L. 1979, p. 446, Section 1) or in which a referendum
- 57 election had authorized the levying of such a tax within the special district and in effect,

and such roll-back option sales and use tax shall remain in effect until discontinued in the
 manner specified in this article.

48-8-84.

If the imposition of the tax provided for in Code Section 48-8-82 is to be levied pursuant to Code Section 48-8-83, the governing authority of the county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district and the governing authority of each qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the district shall each adopt a resolution on or prior to January 1, 1980, imposing the tax authorized by Code Section 48-8-82 on behalf of the county and each qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district.

48-8-85.

- (a)(1) Whenever the governing authority of any county or qualified municipality located wholly or partially within a special district in which a joint county and municipal sales and use tax was not imposed on January 1, 1980 and in effect immediately prior to January 1, 2015, wishes to submit to the electors of the special district the question of whether the tax authorized by Code Section 48-8-82 this article shall be imposed, any such governing authority shall notify the election superintendent of the county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district by forwarding to the superintendent a copy of a resolution of the governing authority calling for a referendum election.
- (2) Whenever the governing authority of any county or qualified municipality located wholly or partially within a special district in which a tax under this article has been terminated wishes to submit to the electors of the special district the question of whether the tax authorized by this article shall be reimposed, any such governing authority shall notify the election superintendent of the county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district by forwarding to the superintendent a copy of a resolution of the governing authority calling for a referendum election.
 - (3) Upon receipt of the resolution, it shall be the duty of the election superintendent to issue the call for an election for the purpose of submitting the question of the imposition of the tax to the voters of the special district for approval or rejection. The election superintendent shall set the date of the election for a day not less than 30 nor more than 45 days after the date of the issuance of the call issue the call and shall conduct the election on a date and in the manner authorized under Code Section 21-2-540. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published

once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date of the election in the official organ of the county. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the following:

- 94 '() YES Shall a retail roll-back option sales and use tax of 1 percent be levied
- 95 () NO within the special district within _____ County?'
- (b) All persons desiring to vote in favor of levying the tax shall vote 'Yes,' and those all 96 97 persons opposed to levying the tax shall vote 'No.' If more than one-half of the votes cast 98 are in favor of levying the tax, then the tax shall be levied in accordance with this article; 99 otherwise, the tax may not be levied, and the question of the imposition of the tax may not again be submitted to the voters of the special district until after 24 months immediately 100 101 following the month in which the election was held. It shall be the duty of the election superintendent to hold and conduct such elections under the same rules and regulations as 102 govern special elections. It shall be his the further duty of the election superintendent to 103 104 canvass the returns, declare the result of the election, and certify the result to the Secretary of State and to the commissioner. The expense of the election shall be borne by the county 105 whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district holding the 106 107 election.

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If the imposition of the tax provided in Code Section 48-8-82 under this article is approved in a referendum election as provided by Code Section 48-8-85, the governing authority of the county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district and the governing authority of each qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the district shall each adopt a resolution during the first 30 days following the certification of the result of the election imposing the tax authorized by Code Section 48-8-82 this article on behalf of the county and each qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district. The resolution shall be effective on the first day of the next succeeding calendar quarter which begins more than 80 days after the adoption of the resolution. With respect to services which are regularly billed on a monthly basis, however, the resolution shall become effective with the first regular billing period coinciding with or following the otherwise effective date of the resolution. A certified copy of the resolution shall be forwarded to the commissioner so that it will be received within five days after its adoption.

123 48-8-87.

The tax levied pursuant to this article shall be exclusively administered and collected by the commissioner for the use and benefit of each county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of a special district and of each qualified municipality located

wholly or partially therein. Such administration and collection shall be accomplished in the same manner and subject to the same applicable provisions, procedures, and penalties provided in Article 1 of this chapter, except that the joint tax provided in this article shall be applicable to sales of motor fuels as prepaid local tax as that term is defined in Code Section 48-8-2; provided, however, that all moneys collected from each taxpayer by the commissioner shall be applied first to such taxpayer's liability for taxes owed the state. Dealers shall be allowed a percentage of the amount of the tax due and accounted for and shall be reimbursed in the form of a deduction in submitting, reporting, and paying the amount due if such amount is not delinquent at the time of payment. The deduction shall be at the rate and subject to the requirements specified under subsections (b) through (f) of Code Section 48-8-50.

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- Each sales tax return remitting taxes collected under this article shall separately identify
- the location of each retail establishment at which any of the taxes remitted were collected
- and shall specify the amount of sales and the amount of taxes collected at each
- establishment for the period covered by the return in order to facilitate the determination
- by the commissioner that all taxes imposed by this article are collected and distributed
- according to situs of sale.
- 145 48-8-89.
- 146 (a) The proceeds of the tax collected by the commissioner in each special district under
- this article shall be disbursed as soon as practicable after collection as follows:
- 148 (1) One percent of the amount collected shall be paid into the general fund of the state
- treasury in order to defray the costs of administration;
- 150 (2) Except for the percentage provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the remaining
- proceeds of the tax shall be distributed to the governing authority of the county whose
- geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district and the governing
- authority of each qualified municipality within the special district and to the governing
- authority of the county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the
- special district for the purpose of assisting such political subdivisions in funding all or
- any portion of those services which are to be provided by such governing authorities
- pursuant to and in accordance with Article IX, Section II, Paragraph III of the
- 158 Constitution of this state; and
- (3) All proceeds distributed pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be used
- exclusively as required under Article IX, Section IV, Paragraph V(b) of the Constitution
- and in the manner specified in this Code section.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that no agreement as to the distribution of the proceeds of the tax shall enrich any political subdivision beyond a sum which in the absence of the distribution would be raised through other sources of revenue. The distribution shall be in accordance with a certificate which shall be executed in behalf of each respective governing authority, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, and which shall encompass all respective political subdivisions, shall be filed with the commissioner, and shall specify by percentage that portion of the remaining proceeds of the tax available for distribution which each such political subdivision shall receive. On or after July 1, 1995, the distribution of proceeds of the tax as specified in the certificate shall be based upon, but not be limited to, the following criteria:

- (1) The service delivery responsibilities of each political subdivision to the population served by the political jurisdiction and served during normal business hours, conventions, trade shows, athletic events and the inherent value to a community of a central business district and the unincorporated areas of the county and the obligation of all residents of the county for the maintenance and prosperity of the central business district and the unincorporated areas of the county;
- 178 (2) The service delivery responsibilities of each political subdivision to the resident population of the subdivision;
- 180 (3) The existing service delivery responsibility of each political subdivision;
- 181 (4) The effect of a change in sales tax distribution on the ability of each political subdivision to meet its short-term and long-term debt;
- 183 (5) The point of sale and use which generates the tax to be apportioned;
- 184 (6) The existence of intergovernmental agreements among and between the political subdivisions;
- (7) The use by any political subdivision of property taxes and other revenues from some
 taxpayers to subsidize the cost of services provided to other taxpayers of the levying
 subdivision; and
- (8) Any coordinated plan of county and municipal service delivery and financing.

Notwithstanding the fact that a certificate shall not contain an execution in behalf of one or more qualified municipalities within the special district, if the combined total of the populations of all such absent municipalities is less than one-half of the aggregate population of all qualified municipalities located within the special district, the submitting political subdivisions shall, in behalf of the absent municipalities, specify a percentage of that portion of the remaining proceeds which each such municipality shall receive, which percentage shall not be less than that proportion which each absent municipality's population bears to the total population of all qualified municipalities within the special district multiplied by that portion of the remaining proceeds which are received by all

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qualified municipalities within the special district. For the purpose of determining the population of the absent municipalities, only that portion of the population of each such municipality which is located within the special district shall be computed. No certificate may contain a total of specified percentages in excess of 100 percent. The certificate shall be filed with the commissioner by March 1, 1980, for those special districts in which the tax authorized by this article is being levied on January 1, 1980. For all other special districts in which the tax shall be imposed subsequent to January 1, 1980, the certificate shall be filed with the commissioner within 60 days after the tax is imposed within the district. The commissioner shall continue to distribute the proceeds of the tax as otherwise provided in this Code section until the first day of the next calendar year following the month in which the commissioner receives a certificate as provided in this Code section, which certificate shall provide other percentages upon which the commissioner shall make the distribution to the political subdivisions entitled to the proceeds of the tax. At such time, the commissioner shall thereafter distribute the proceeds of the tax in accordance with the directions of the certificate. (c) If the certificate provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section is not received by the commissioner by the required date, the authority to impose the tax authorized by Code Section 48-8-82 shall cease on the first day of the second calendar month following the month in which the tax was initially imposed and the tax shall not be levied in the special district after such date unless the reimposition of the tax is subsequently authorized pursuant to Code Section 48-8-85. When the imposition of the tax is so terminated, the commissioner shall retain the proceeds of the tax which were to be distributed to the governing authorities of the county and qualified municipalities within the special district until he receives a certificate in behalf of each such governing authority specifying the percentage of the proceeds which each such governing authority shall receive. If no such certificate is received by the commissioner within 120 days of the date on which the authority to levy the tax was terminated, the proceeds shall escheat to the state and the commissioner shall transfer the proceeds to the state's general fund. (d)(1) A certificate providing for the distribution of the proceeds of the tax authorized by this article shall expire on December 31 of the second year following the year in which the decennial census is conducted. No later than December 30 of the second year following the year in which the census is conducted, a new distribution certificate meeting the requirements for certificates specified by subsection (b) of this Code section shall be filed with and received by the commissioner. The General Assembly recognizes that the requirement for government services is not always in direct correlation with population. Although a new distribution certificate is required within a time certain of the decennial census, this requirement is not meant to convey an intent by the General

Assembly that population as a criterion should be more heavily weighted than other criteria. It is the express intent of the General Assembly in requiring such renegotiation that eligible political subdivisions shall analyze local service delivery responsibilities and the existing allocation of proceeds made available to such governments under the provisions of this article and make rational the allocation of such resources to meet such service delivery responsibilities. Political subdivisions in their renegotiation of such distributions shall at a minimum consider the criteria specified in subsection (b) of this Code section.

(2) The commissioner shall be notified in writing of the commencement of renegotiation proceedings by the county governing authority on behalf of all eligible political subdivisions within the special district. The eligible political subdivisions shall

proceedings by the county governing authority on behalf of all eligible political subdivisions within the special district. The eligible political subdivisions shall commence renegotiations at the call of the county governing authority before July 1 of the second year following the year in which the census is conducted. If the county governing authority does not issue the call by that date, any eligible municipality may issue the call and so notify the commissioner and all eligible political subdivisions within

the special district.

(3) Following the commencement of such renegotiation, if the parties necessary to an agreement fail to reach an agreement within 60 days, such parties shall submit the dispute to nonbinding arbitration, mediation, or such other means of resolving conflicts in a manner which attempts to reach a resolution of the dispute. Any renegotiation agreement reached pursuant to this paragraph shall be in accordance with the requirements specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(4)(A) If the parties necessary to an agreement fail to reach an agreement within 60 days of submitting the dispute to nonbinding arbitration, mediation, or such other means of resolving conflicts, as required by paragraph (3) of this subsection, any of such parties may file a petition in superior court of the county seeking resolution of the items remaining in dispute. Such petition shall be filed no later than 30 days after the last day of the 60 day alternative dispute resolution period required by paragraph (3) of this subsection. Such petition shall be assigned to a judge pursuant to Code Section 15-1-9.1 or 15-6-13 who is not a judge in the circuit in which the county is located. The judge selected may also be a senior judge pursuant to Code Section 15-1-9.2 who resides in another circuit.

(B) Following the filing of the petition as specified under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the county and qualified municipalities representing at least one-half of the aggregate municipal population of all qualified municipalities located wholly or partially within the special district shall separately submit to the judge and the other parties a written best and final offer specifying the distribution of the tax proceeds.

There shall be one such offer from the county and one such offer from qualified municipalities representing at least one-half of the aggregate municipal population of all qualified municipalities located wholly or partially within the special district. The offer from the county may be an offer representing the county and any qualified municipalities that are not represented in the offer from the qualified municipalities representing at least one-half of the aggregate municipal population of all qualified municipalities located wholly or partially within the special district.

- (C) Any qualified municipality or municipalities located wholly or partially within the special district who are not a party to an offer under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, and who represent at least one-half of the aggregate municipal population of all qualified municipalities who are not a party to an offer under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, shall be authorized to separately submit to the judge and the other parties a written best and final offer specifying the distribution of the tax proceeds. There shall be one such offer from such qualified municipality or municipalities.
- (D) Each offer under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph shall take into account the allocation required for any absent municipalities in accordance with subsection (b) of this Code section. The judge shall conduct such hearings as the judge deems necessary and shall render a decision based on the requirements and intent of paragraph (1) of this subsection and the criteria in subsection (b) of this Code section. The judge's decision shall adopt the best and final offer of one of the parties submitted under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph specifying the allocation of the tax proceeds and shall also include findings of fact. The judge shall enter a final order containing a new distribution certificate and transmit a copy of it to the commissioner. (E) A final order entered under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph shall be subject to appeal by application upon one or more of the following grounds:
 - (i) The judge's disregard of the law;
 - (ii) Partiality of the judge; or

- (iii) Corruption, fraud, or misconduct by the judge or a party.
- (F) During the process set forth in this paragraph, the commissioner shall continue to distribute the sales tax proceeds according to the percentages specified in the most recently filed distribution certificate or in accordance with subsection (f) of Code Section 48-8-89.1, as applicable, until a new distribution certificate is properly filed.

 (5) If a new distribution certificate as provided for in this Code section is not received
- by the commissioner, the authority to impose the tax authorized by Code Section 48-8-82 shall cease, and the tax shall not be levied in the special district after such date unless the reimposition of the tax is subsequently authorized pursuant to Code Section 48-8-85. When the imposition of the tax is so terminated, the commissioner shall retain the

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proceeds of the tax which were to be distributed to the governing authorities of the county and qualified municipalities within the special district until the commissioner receives a certificate on behalf of each such governing authority specifying the percentage of the proceeds which each such governing authority shall receive. If no such certificate is received by the commissioner within 120 days of the date on which the authority to levy the tax was terminated, the proceeds shall escheat to the state, and the commissioner shall transfer the proceeds to the state's general fund. (6) If the commissioner receives a new distribution certificate by the required date, the commissioner shall distribute the proceeds of the tax in accordance with the directions of the new distribution certificate commencing on January 1 of the year immediately following the year in which such certificate was executed by the parties or the judge or the first day of the second calendar month following the month such certificate was executed by the parties or the judge, whichever is sooner. (7) Costs of any conflict resolution under paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection shall be borne proportionately by the affected political subdivisions in accordance with the final percentage distributions of the proceeds of the tax as reflected by the new distribution certificate. (8) Political subdivisions shall be authorized, at their option, to renegotiate distribution certificates on a more frequent basis than is otherwise required under this subsection. (9) No provision of this subsection shall apply to any county which is authorized to levy or which levies a local sales tax, local use tax, or local sales and use tax for educational purposes pursuant to a local constitutional amendment or to any county which is authorized to expend all or any portion of the proceeds of any sales tax, use tax, or sales and use tax for educational purposes pursuant to a local constitutional amendment. (b) Within each special district in which the tax under this article is levied, the distribution of the proceeds of such tax required under paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be made in two distinct areas as follows: (1) The unincorporated area of the county. In the case of a consolidated government, such area shall consist of the entire county except for any qualified municipality that retained its separate existence; and (2) The corporate limits of each qualified municipality located in such special district. (c)(1) The portion of the proceeds of such tax which are distributed to the unincorporated area of the county shall be used for the equivalent reduction upon taxable property within the unincorporated area of the county of the ad valorem millage rate for county services which are provided within the unincorporated area of the county. Such rollback shall be accomplished in the manner provided in Code Section 48-8-91. In the event the millage rate is reduced to zero and excess proceeds of such distribution remain, such excess

proceeds shall be used for other indebtedness applicable to the unincorporated area of the county. In the event there is no such other indebtedness, such excess proceeds may be expended for the unincorporated area for any lawful purpose for which ad valorem tax proceeds may be expended.

- (2) The portion of the proceeds of such tax which are distributed to each qualified municipality located in such special district shall be used for the equivalent reduction upon taxable property within such qualified municipality of the ad valorem millage rate for municipal purposes. Such reduction shall apply only in that portion of such qualified municipality that is located within such special district. Such rollback shall be accomplished in the manner provided in Code Section 48-8-91. In the event the millage rate is reduced to zero and excess proceeds of such distribution remain, such excess proceeds shall be used for other indebtedness applicable to that portion of the qualified municipality located within such special district. In the event there is no such other indebtedness, such excess proceeds shall be transferred to the governing authority of the county and shall be used solely for the equivalent reduction upon taxable property within that portion of the qualified municipality located within such special district of the ad valorem millage rate for county-wide purposes.
- 364 (d)(1) The distribution of proceeds within a special district among the unincorporated 365 area of the county shall be according to the ratio the total population of the 366 unincorporated area of the county bears to the total population of the entire county.
- (2) The distribution of proceeds within a special district to each qualified municipality
 shall be according to the ratio the total population of each qualified municipality bears
 to the total population of the entire county.
- 370 (e) For purposes of the distribution specified under subsection (d) of this Code section:
- (1) Population shall be determined in accordance with the adjusted figures of the most
 recent United States decennial census; and
- (2) Only the population of a qualified municipality which is located within such special
 district shall be counted.
- 375 48-8-89.1.

(a) If there exists within any special district in which the tax authorized by this article is imposed a qualified municipality which was not a qualified municipality on the date of filing with the most recent distribution of proceeds under this article by the commissioner of the most recently filed certificate under Code Section 48-8-89, such qualified municipality may request the commissioner to give notice of the qualified municipality's existence as provided in this subsection. Upon receipt of such a request, the commissioner shall, unless he the commissioner determines that the requesting entity is not a qualified

municipality, within 30 days give written notice of the qualified municipality's existence to the county which is conterminous with the special district in which the qualified municipality is located and to each other qualified municipality within the special district. Such written notice shall include the name of the new qualified municipality, the effective date of the notice, and a statement of the provisions of this Code section. Commencing on January 1 of the calendar year immediately following the year such written notice was provided by the commissioner, a new distribution of proceeds shall be made by the commissioner which shall take into account such new qualified municipality.

(b) Within 60 days after the effective date of the notice referred to in subsection (a) of this Code section, a new distribution certificate shall be filed with the commissioner for the

special district or, within 30 days after the last day of the 60 day alternative dispute resolution period required by paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of Code Section 48-8-89, the county, any qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district, or any new qualified municipality as specified under subsection (a) of this Code section located wholly or partially within the special district may file a petition in superior court seeking resolution of the items remaining in dispute pursuant to the procedure set forth in paragraph (4) of subsection (d) of Code Section 48-8-89. In the event such a petition is filed, a new qualified municipality as specified under subsection (a) of this Code section located wholly or partially within the special district shall be subject to the same requirements applicable to qualified municipalities located wholly or partially within the special district under paragraph (4) of subsection (d) of Code Section 48-8-89. The new distribution certificate shall specify by percentage what portion of the proceeds of the tax available for distribution within the special district shall be received by the county in which the special district is located and by each qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district, including the new qualified municipality. No distribution certificate shall contain a total of specified percentages in excess of 100 percent.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a distribution certificate required by this Code section must be executed by the governing authorities of the county within which the special district is located and each qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district, including the new qualified municipality. Notwithstanding the fact that a certificate shall not contain an execution in behalf of one or more qualified municipalities within the special district, if the combined total of the populations of all such absent municipalities is less than one-half of the aggregate population of all qualified municipalities located within the special district, the submitting political subdivisions shall, in behalf of the absent municipalities, specify a percentage of that portion of the remaining proceeds which each such municipality shall receive, which percentage shall not be less than that proportion which each absent municipality's population bears to the total

population of all qualified municipalities within the special district multiplied by that portion of the remaining proceeds which are received by all qualified municipalities within the special district. For the purpose of determining the population of the absent municipalities, only that portion of the population of each such municipality which is located within the special district shall be computed.

- (d) If a new certificate is not filed for any special district as required by this Code section, the authority to impose the tax authorized by Code Section 48-8-82 within that special district shall cease on the first day of January of the year following the year in which the required distribution certificate could last have been timely filed. In any special district in which the authority to impose the tax is terminated pursuant to this subsection, the tax may thereafter be reimposed only pursuant to the procedures specified in Code Sections 48-8-84 through 48-8-86.
- (e) If a new certificate is filed as required by this Code section, the commissioner shall begin to distribute the proceeds as specified in the new certificate on the first day of January of the first calendar year which begins more than 60 days after the effective date of the notice referred to in subsection (b) of this Code section. The commissioner shall continue to distribute the proceeds of the tax according to the new certificate until a subsequent certificate is filed and becomes effective as provided in Code Section 48-8-89.

 (f)(b)(1) As used in this subsection, the term:
 - (A) 'New Newly chartered qualified municipality' means a municipal corporation which is a qualified municipality and which has been chartered by local Act since the date of filing with the most recent distribution of proceeds by the commissioner of the most recently filed certificate under Code Section 48-8-89 within a county which has located in a special district for the provision of local government services consisting of the unincorporated area of the county where the population of the unincorporated area of the county, after removal of the population of the new municipality from the unincorporated area, constitutes less than 20 percent of the population of the county according to the most recent decennial census in which a tax under this article is in effect.
 - (B) 'Newly expanded qualified municipality' means a municipal corporation which is a qualified municipality and which since the date of filing with the most recent distribution of proceeds by the commissioner of the most recently filed certificate under Code Section 48-8-89 has increased its population by more than 15 percent through one or more annexations and is located in the same county as a new newly chartered qualified municipality.
 - (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code section, if If there exists within any special district in which the tax authorized by this article is imposed a new newly

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within the special district, if any.

chartered qualified municipality or a newly expanded qualified municipality, or both, such qualified municipality or municipalities which was not a newly chartered qualified municipality or a newly expanded qualified municipality at the time of the most recent distribution of proceeds under this article in the special district by the commissioner, any such newly chartered qualified municipality or newly expanded qualified municipality may request the commissioner to give notice of the qualified municipality's or municipalities' its existence and status as a new newly chartered qualified municipality or newly expanded qualified municipality as provided in this subsection. Upon receipt of such a request, the commissioner shall, unless he or she determines that the requesting entity is not a new newly chartered qualified municipality or newly expanded qualified municipality, within 30 days give written notice of the qualified municipality's its existence and status to the county which is conterminous with the special district in which the <u>newly chartered qualified municipality or newly expanded</u> qualified municipality is located and to each other qualified municipality within the special district. Such written notice shall include the name of the new newly chartered qualified municipality or newly expanded qualified municipality, the effective date of the notice, and a statement of the provisions of this subsection. Commencing on January 1 of the calendar year immediately following the year such written notice was provided by the commissioner, a new distribution of proceeds shall be made by the commissioner which shall take into account such newly chartered qualified municipality or newly expanded qualified municipality. (3) Within 60 days after the effective date of the notice referred to in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a new distribution certificate shall be filed with the commissioner for the special district or, within 30 days after the last day of the 60 day alternative dispute resolution period required by paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of Code Section 48-8-89, the county, any qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district, or any new qualified municipality or newly expanded qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district may file a petition in superior court seeking resolution of the items remaining in dispute pursuant to the procedure set forth in paragraph (4) of subsection (d) of Code Section 48-8-89. The new distribution certificate shall address only the proceeds of the tax available for distribution from the percentage allocated to the county in the current distribution certificate and shall specify as a percentage of the total proceeds of the tax what portion of the proceeds shall be received by the county in which the special district is located and by the new qualified municipality and newly expanded qualified municipality located wholly or partially

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(4) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, a distribution certificate required by this subsection must be executed by the governing authorities of the county within which the special district is located, each new qualified municipality located wholly or partially within the special district, and each newly expanded qualified municipality, if any. If a new certificate is not filed within 60 days as required by paragraph (3) of this subsection, the commissioner shall distribute the proceeds of the tax available for distribution from the percentage allocated to the county in the current distribution certificate such that: (A) The new qualified municipality receives an allocation equal on a per capita basis to the average per capita allocation to the other qualified municipalities in the county (according to population), to be expended as provided in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-8-89; and (B) Any newly expanded qualified municipality receives a total allocation of tax proceeds (including any amount previously allocated) equal on a per capita basis to the average per capita allocation to the other qualified municipalities in the county (according to population), to be expended as provided in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-8-89. Every other qualified municipality shall continue to receive the share provided by the existing distribution certificate or otherwise provided by law. The county shall receive the remaining proceeds of the tax, to be expended as provided in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-8-89. For the purpose of determining the population of qualified municipalities, only that portion of the population of each such municipality which is located within the special district shall be computed. For the purpose of determining population under this Code section, all calculations of population shall be according to the most recent decennial census, including the census data from such census applicable to any annexed territory. (5) The commissioner shall begin to distribute the proceeds as specified in the newly filed certificate or, if such a certificate is not filed, as specified in paragraph (4) of this subsection on the first day of the first month which begins more than 60 days after the effective date of the notice referred to in paragraph (2) of this subsection. The commissioner shall continue to distribute the proceeds of the tax according to the existing certificate and the certificate applicable to the county and the new qualified municipality or, if such a certificate is not filed, as specified in paragraph (4) of this subsection until a subsequent certificate is filed and becomes effective as provided in Code Section 48-8-89.

527 48-8-89.2.

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If the commissioner determines that a qualified municipality entitled to receive tax proceeds under this article has ceased to be a qualified municipality, he shall thereafter distribute the percentage of the proceeds of the tax to which that qualified municipality was entitled to the county which is conterminous with the special district and to each other qualified municipality within the special district pro rata according to the percentages of the tax to which each other such political subdivision is otherwise entitled; and such distribution formula shall remain in effect until a new certificate is filed and becomes effective as provided in Code Section 48-8-89 the commissioner shall, commencing on January 1 of the calendar year immediately following the year such determination was made by the commissioner, cease the distribution of proceeds to such municipality and redistribute such proceeds to the other entities qualified to receive proceeds of the tax accordingly.

- 540 48-8-89.3.
- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, the tax provided for
- 542 in Code Section 48-8-82 shall be levied in any special district in which:
- (1) Prior to January 1, 1980, a joint county and municipal sales and use tax was levied
- 544 pursuant to Ga. L. 1975, p. 984, Section 2 (as amended by Ga. L. 1975, Ex. Sess., p.
- 545 1729, Section 1; Ga. L. 1976, p. 1019, Sections 1-13; Ga. L. 1977, p. 1008, Section 1; Ga.
- 546 L. 1978, p. 1429, Sections 1-3; Ga. L. 1978, p. 1460, Sections 1-3; Ga. L. 1978, p. 1678,
- 547 Section 1; Ga. L. 1978, p. 1695, Section 1; Ga. L. 1979, p. 446, Section 1) or in which
- 548 a referendum election had authorized the levying of such a tax within the special district;
- 549 (2) The tax provided for in Code Section 48-8-82 was actually collected during the
- 550 period of January 1, 1980, to January 1, 1989; and
- (3) There exists a qualified municipality which lies wholly or partially within the special
- district and which:
- (A) Was a qualified municipality at the time of filing of the distribution certificate most
- recently filed with the commissioner under Code Section 48-8-89; and
- (B) Was not assigned any percentage of the net proceeds of the tax under such
- distribution certificate.
- 557 In any special district which meets the criteria specified in this subsection, the tax provided
- for in Code Section 48-8-82 shall be levied without regard to any past defects in
- 559 compliance with the procedures specified by this article for the imposition of the tax.
- 560 (b) A qualified municipality described in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code
- section, for which receipt of a portion of the net tax proceeds was not specified in the
- 562 certificate most recently filed with the commissioner under Code Section 48-8-89, may

request the commissioner to thereafter distribute a portion of the net tax proceeds to the qualified municipality as provided in this Code section. Upon receipt of such a request, the commissioner shall thereafter, unless he determines that the requesting municipality does not meet the criteria specified in this Code section, give written notice of a new distribution formula to the county which is conterminous with the special district, to the requesting qualified municipality, and to each other qualified municipality within the special district. Such new distribution formula shall be determined as follows:

- (1) Begin with the percentages specified in the distribution certificate most recently filed with the commissioner;
- (2) Assign to the requesting municipality a percentage of the net proceeds which is equal to the total percentage of the net proceeds previously distributed to all other qualified municipalities in the special district multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the population of the requesting municipality and the denominator of which is the population of all qualified municipalities within the special district;
- (3) Deduct the percentage of the net proceeds so assigned to the requesting municipality
 from the percentages previously assigned to all other qualified municipalities within the
 special district, such deductions to be pro rata on the basis of population; and
- (4) Make no change in the percentage of the net proceeds previously distributed to the
 county which is conterminous with the special district.
 - (c) This new distribution formula shall be implemented at the earliest date deemed administratively practicable by the commissioner, and the notice specified in subsection (b) of this Code section shall include such date. This new distribution formula shall remain in effect until a subsequent distribution certificate is filed and becomes effective as provided in Code Section 48-8-89.
 - (d) For the purpose of all population based calculations under this Code section, only that portion of the population of a qualified municipality which is located within the special district shall be computed.
- 590 48-8-90.

Where a local sales or use tax has been paid with respect to tangible personal property by the purchaser either in another local tax jurisdiction within the state or in a tax jurisdiction outside the state, the tax may be credited against the tax authorized to be imposed by this article upon the same property. If the amount of sales or use tax so paid is less than the amount of the use tax due under this article, the purchaser shall pay an amount equal to the difference between the amount paid in the other tax jurisdiction and the amount due under this article. The commissioner may require such proof of payment in another local tax jurisdiction as he the commissioner deems necessary and proper. No credit shall be

granted, however, against the tax imposed under this article for tax paid in another jurisdiction if the tax paid in such other jurisdiction is used to obtain a credit against any other local sales and use tax levied in the special district or in the county which is coterminous conterminous with the special district; and taxes so paid in another jurisdiction shall be credited first against the tax levied under this article and then against the tax levied under Article 3 of this chapter, if applicable.

605 48-8-91.

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(a) As a condition precedent for authority to levy the tax or to collect any proceeds from the tax authorized by this article for the year following the initial year in which it is levied and for all subsequent years, the <u>The</u> county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district and each qualified municipality therein receiving any proceeds of the tax shall adjust annually the millage rate for ad valorem taxation of tangible property within such political subdivisions as provided in this subsection Code section. (b) The county governing authority shall compute the millage rate necessary to produce revenue from taxation of tangible property in the unincorporated area of the county which, when combined with other revenues reasonably expected to be received by the county governing authority from such unincorporated area during the year other than revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to this article, would provide revenues sufficient to defray the expenses of the county governing authority for the year for such unincorporated area. The millage rate so ascertained shall then be reduced by a millage rate which, if levied against the tangible property within the unincorporated area, would produce an amount equal to the distribution of the proceeds of the tax imposed by this article which were received by the county governing authority from such unincorporated area during the preceding year. The tax bill of each ad valorem taxpayer in the unincorporated area shall show in a prominent manner the millage rate first ascertained as provided in this subsection and shall show such millage rate reduced by the millage rate required to raise an amount of revenue equal to the distribution of the proceeds of the tax imposed by this article during the previous year. The remainder shall be the millage rate upon which each taxpayer's bill shall be based. The tax commissioner of the county shall cause to be shown in a prominent manner on the tax bill of each ad valorem taxpayer in the unincorporated area the dollar amount of reduction of ad valorem property taxes which the taxpayer has received as a result of the county's sharing in the proceeds of the tax authorized to be imposed by this article; provided, however, that the dollar amount of reduction of ad valorem property taxes shall not be calculated or shown on those forms used for the registration and taxation of motor vehicles or trailers. In the event a qualified municipality is required to transfer excess proceeds to a county governing authority pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection

(c) of Code Section 48-8-89, the county governing authority shall utilize such proceeds exclusively for providing a millage reduction upon taxable property within that portion of the qualified municipality that transferred such proceeds and is located within the special district of the ad valorem millage rate for county-wide purposes. Such reduction shall be reflected in the same manner as otherwise required under this subsection.

(c) The governing authority of each such political subdivision qualified municipality shall compute the millage rate necessary to produce revenue from taxation of tangible property in its respective political subdivision corporate limits which, when combined with other revenues reasonably expected to be received by the political subdivision qualified municipality during the year other than revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to this article, would provide revenues sufficient to defray the expenses of the political subdivision qualified municipality for the year. The millage rate so ascertained shall then be reduced by a millage rate which, if levied against the tangible property within the political subdivision qualified municipality, would produce an amount equal to the distribution of the proceeds of the tax imposed by this article which were received by the political subdivision qualified municipality during the preceding year. The tax bill of each ad valorem taxpayer in the political subdivision qualified municipality shall show in a prominent manner the millage rate first ascertained as provided in this subsection and shall show such millage rate reduced by the millage rate required to raise an amount of revenue equal to the distribution of the proceeds of the tax imposed by this article during the previous year. The remainder shall be the millage rate upon which each taxpayer's bill shall be based. The tax authority of each such political subdivision qualified municipality shall cause to be shown in a prominent manner on the tax bill of each ad valorem taxpayer the dollar amount of reduction of ad valorem property taxes which the taxpayer has received as a result of the political subdivision's qualified municipality's sharing in the proceeds of the tax authorized to be imposed by this article; provided, however, that the dollar amount of reduction of ad valorem property taxes shall not be calculated or shown on those forms used for the registration and taxation of motor vehicles or trailers.

(b)(d) This Code section shall not be construed to require a county or <u>qualified</u> municipality to prepare and mail ad valorem property tax bills when the ad valorem property tax millage rate in the county or municipality has been reduced to zero as a result of the receipt of proceeds from the tax levied pursuant to this article.

667 48-8-92.

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(a) Whenever the governing authority of any county and or the governing authorities of at least one-half of qualified municipalities located wholly or partially within a special district in which the tax authorized by this article is being levied wish to submit to the

electors of the special district the question of whether the tax authorized by Code Section 48-8-82 this article shall be discontinued, such governing authority or authorities shall notify the election superintendent of the county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district by forwarding to the superintendent a copy of a resolution of the county governing authority or a joint resolution of the governing authorities of such qualified municipalities calling for the referendum election. Upon receipt of the such resolution, it shall be the duty of the election superintendent to issue the call for an election for the purpose of submitting the question of discontinuing the levy of the tax to the voters of the special district for approval or rejection. The election superintendent shall issue the call and shall conduct the election on a date and in the manner authorized under Code Section 21-2-540. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date of the election in the official organ of the county. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the following:

'() YES Shall the 1 percent retail roll-back option sales and use tax being levied

() NO within the special district within ______ County be terminated?'

(b) All persons desiring to vote in favor of discontinuing the tax shall vote 'Yes,' and all persons opposed to discontinuing the tax shall vote 'No.' If more than one-half of the votes cast are in favor of discontinuing the tax, then the tax shall cease to be levied on the first day of the second calendar quarter following the month in which the commissioner receives the certification of the result of the election; otherwise, the tax shall continue to be levied, and the question of the discontinuing of the tax shall not again be submitted to the voters of the special district until after 24 months immediately following the month in which the election was held. It shall be the duty of the election superintendent to hold and conduct such elections under the same rules and regulations as govern special elections. It shall be such superintendent's further duty to canvass the returns, declare and certify the result of the election, and certify the result to the Secretary of State and to the commissioner. The expense of the election shall be borne by the county whose geographical boundary is conterminous with that of the special district holding the election.

700 48-8-93.

No tax provided for in Code Section 48-8-82 under this article shall be imposed upon the sale of tangible personal property which is ordered by and delivered to the purchaser at a point outside the geographical area of the special district in which the joint such tax is imposed regardless of the point at which title passes, if the delivery is made by the seller's vehicle, United States mail, or common carrier or by private or contract carrier licensed by

the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration or the Georgia Department of Public

- 707 Safety.
- 708 48-8-94.
- 709 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'building and construction materials' means all
- building and construction materials, supplies, fixtures, or equipment, any combination of
- such items, and any other leased or purchased articles when the materials, supplies,
- fixtures, equipment, or articles are to be utilized or consumed during construction or are
- to be incorporated into construction work pursuant to a bona fide written construction
- 714 contract.
- 715 (b) No tax provided for in Code Section 48-8-82 under this article shall be imposed by a
- 716 county or municipality upon the sale or use of building and construction materials when
- the contract pursuant to which the materials are purchased or used was advertised for bid
- prior to approval of the levy of the tax by the county or municipality and the contract was
- entered into as a result of a bid actually submitted in response to the advertisement prior
- to approval of the levy of the tax.
- 721 48-8-95.
- The commissioner shall have the power and authority to promulgate such rules and
- regulations as shall be necessary for the effective and efficient administration and
- enforcement of the collection of the tax authorized to be imposed by this article.
- 725 48-8-96.
- 726 (a) With respect to any consolidated government created by the consolidation of a county
- and one or more municipalities in which consolidated government homestead property
- 728 (exclusive of improvements) is valued for purposes of local ad valorem taxation according
- to a base year assessed value which does not change so long as the property is actually
- occupied by the same owner as a homestead, the provisions of this Code section shall
- control over any conflicting provisions of Article 1 of this chapter or this article.
- 732 (b) If the tax authorized by this article is in effect in the special district containing a
- consolidated government referred to in subsection (a) of this Code section, then the rate of
- tax imposed under this article in such special district may be increased from 1 percent to
- 735 2 percent if such increase is approved by:
- 736 (1) A resolution of the governing authority of the consolidated government in the same
- manner as otherwise required for the initial 1 percent sales tax pursuant to Code Section
- 738 48-8-84 48-8-85; and

739 (2) A referendum conducted in the same manner as otherwise required for the initial 1 percent sales tax pursuant to Code Section 48-8-85, except that the ballot shall have 740 741 written or printed thereon the following: 742 '() YES Shall the retail roll-back option sales and use tax levied within the special 743 district within _____ County be increased from 1 percent to 2 () NO 744 percent?' (c) Such increased tax rate shall become effective on the first day of the next succeeding 745 calendar quarter which begins more than 80 days after the date of the election at which 746 such increase was approved by the voters. The proceeds of the increased tax shall be 747 divided in the same proportions as the original tax. 748 749 (d) Such increased tax rate may be decreased from 2 percent to 1 percent if such decrease 750 is approved by: 751 (1) A resolution of the governing authority of the consolidated government in the same manner as otherwise required under Code Section 48-8-92; and 752 753 A referendum conducted in the same manner as otherwise required for discontinuation of the tax under Code Section 48-8-92, except that the ballot shall have 754 printed or written thereon the following: 755 756 '() YES Shall the retail roll-back option sales and use tax levied within the special 757 () NO district within _____ County be decreased from 2 percent to 1 758 percent?' (e) Such decreased tax rate shall become effective on the first day of the second calendar 759 760 quarter following the month in which the commissioner receives certification of the result 761 of the election. (f) If the tax authorized by this article is to be newly imposed in the special district 762 763 containing a consolidated government referred to in subsection (a) of this Code section, then such tax may be imposed in such special district at the rate of 2 percent if such rate 764 765 is approved by: 766 (1) A resolution of the governing authority of the consolidated government in the same 767 manner as otherwise required pursuant to Code Section 48-8-84 48-8-85; and (2) A referendum conducted in the same manner as otherwise required pursuant to Code 768 Section 48-8-85, except that the ballot shall have written or printed thereon the following: 769 770 '() YES Shall a retail roll-back option sales and use tax of 2 percent be levied within 771 () NO the special district within _____ County?' (g) Such 2 percent tax may be discontinued if such discontinuation is approved by: 772 773 (1) A resolution of the governing authority of the consolidated government in the same 774 manner as otherwise required under Code Section 48-8-92; and

775 (2) A referendum conducted in the same manner as otherwise required for 776 discontinuation of the tax under Code Section 48-8-92, except that the ballot shall have 777 printed or written thereon the following:

- 778 '() YES Shall the retail roll-back option sales and use tax levied within the special
- 779 () NO district within _____ County be terminated?'
- 780 (h)(1) In the case of increase from 1 percent to 2 percent, the amount in excess of the
- initial 1 percent sales and use tax shall not apply to the sale of motor vehicles.
- 782 (2) In the case of a newly imposed 2 percent sales and use tax under this Code section,
- only the amount in excess of a 1 percent sales and use tax shall not apply to the sale of
- motor vehicles.
- 785 (i) In all respects not otherwise provided for in this Code section, the levy of a tax under
- this article by a consolidated government referred to in subsection (a) of this Code section
- shall be in the same manner as the levy of the tax by any other county."

788 **SECTION 2.**

- 789 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2015; provided, however, that this Act shall
- only become effective on January 1, 2015, upon the ratification of a resolution proposing an
- amendment to the Constitution at the November, 2014, state-wide general election which
- 792 provides for the comprehensive revision of the joint county and municipal sales and use tax
- and reenactment as the roll-back option sales and use tax for property tax relief. If such
- resolution is not so ratified, this Act shall stand repealed in its entirety on January 1, 2015.

795 **SECTION 3.**

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