

House Bill 896

By: Representatives Beverly of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, Epps of the 144<sup>th</sup>, Dickey of the 140<sup>th</sup>, and Randall of the 142<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act entitled "An Act to create the Macon-Bibb County Community  
2 Enhancement Authority," approved April 11, 2012 (Ga. L. 2012, p. 5270), so as to change  
3 the membership of such authority; to provide for the initial term of the chairperson; to define  
4 certain terms; to include targeted employment areas within the powers of the authority; to  
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act entitled "An Act to create the Macon-Bibb County Community Enhancement  
9 Authority," approved April 11, 2012 (Ga. L. 2012, p. 5270), is amended by revising  
10 subsection (b) of Section 3 as follows:

11 "(b) The authority shall be governed by a board of trustees consisting of a chairperson and  
12 three members. The chairperson shall be selected by majority vote of the Bibb County  
13 Delegation to the General Assembly of Georgia. Two members shall be appointed by the  
14 chairperson. One member shall be appointed by the governing authority of Macon-Bibb  
15 County. Members shall serve terms of four years; provided, however, that the initial term  
16 of the first chairperson shall be eight years."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said Act is further amended in paragraph (3) of Section 4 as follows:

19 "(3) 'Category IV poverty area' means an area designated by the federal Department of  
20 Commerce as a census block in which the poverty level is 40 percent or higher. Such  
21 term shall also include any less developed census tract area which is contiguous to such  
22 a census block."

23 **SECTION 3.**

24 Said Act is further amended in Section 4 by adding three new paragraphs to read as follows:

25 "(1.1) 'Benchmark county' means the county according to the most recent data from the  
26 Department of Labor and the United States Department of Commerce that ranks  
27 seventy-first from the bottom county on the highest unemployment rate, lowest per capita  
28 income, and highest percentage of residents whose income is below the poverty level."

29 "(5.1) 'Less developed census tract area' means an area in this state comprising ten or  
30 more contiguous census tracts, each of which is equal to or worse than the benchmark  
31 county on the highest unemployment rate, lowest per capita income, and highest  
32 percentage of residents whose income is below the poverty level and designated as such  
33 by the Department of Community Affairs."

34 "(11) 'Targeted employment area' means a Georgia Targeted Employment Area for the  
35 1990 Immigration Act (P.L. 101-649) Investor VISA Provisions recognized by the  
36 Georgia Department of Labor."

37 **SECTION 4.**

38 Said Act is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of Section 4 as follows:

39 "(4) 'Community development project' means a project developed by the authority to  
40 improve the business, commercial, and residential infrastructure of a category IV poverty  
41 area or a targeted employment area. Such project shall be designed according to the  
42 specific problems and needs of the area addressed and may, without limitation, be  
43 designed to eliminate blight, encourage the establishment or growth of commercial  
44 endeavors, or improve the quality of life in such area through the creation of affordable  
45 housing, parks, and recreation facilities and programs."

46 **SECTION 5.**

47 Said Act is further amended by revising paragraph (5) of Section 5 as follows:

48 "(5) To administer funds under its control so as to engage in community development  
49 projects in category IV poverty areas and targeted employment areas; provided, however,  
50 that when an area improves to the point that it is no longer classified as a category IV  
51 poverty area or a targeted employment area, the authority shall phase out involvement in  
52 such area and turn over projects to local authorities over the period of one year following  
53 the redesignation of the area;"

54 **SECTION 6.**

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