House Bill 896 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)
By: Representatives Beverly of the 143rd, Epps of the 144th, Dickey of the 140th, and Randall of the 142nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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

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

SECTION 2.

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

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

SECTION 3.

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

SECTION 6.
All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.