

House Bill 1552 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Jackson of the 64th, Bazemore of the 63rd, Schofield of the 60th, Bruce of the 61st, Hopson of the 153rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To create the Union City Public Facilities Authority; to provide that the authority is a body
2 corporate and politic and an instrumentality of the State of Georgia; to authorize the authority
3 to acquire, construct, equip, maintain, and operate certain projects, including buildings and
4 facilities for use by Union City for its governmental, proprietary, and administrative
5 functions; to provide for members of the authority and their terms, organization, and
6 reimbursement; to provide for vacancies; to provide for definitions; to confer powers and
7 impose duties on the authority; to provide for limitations to the authority; to authorize the
8 authority to enter into contracts and leases pertaining to uses of such facilities, which
9 contracts and leases may obligate the lessees to make payment for the use of the facilities for
10 the term thereof and to pledge for that purpose money derived from taxation; to provide that
11 no debt of Union City or the State of Georgia shall be incurred by the exercise of any of the
12 powers granted; to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds of the authority payable from the
13 revenues, rents, and earnings and other functions of the authority; to authorize the collecting
14 and pledging of such revenues, rents, and earnings for the payment of such bonds; to
15 authorize the adoption of resolutions and the execution of trust agreements and indentures
16 to secure the payment of such bonds and to define the rights of the holders of such bonds; to
17 provide for a sinking fund; to make the bonds of the authority exempt from taxation; to
18 authorize the issuance of refunding bonds; to provide for the validation of such bonds and

H. B. 1552

19 to fix the venue for jurisdiction of actions relating to any provision of this Act; to provide for
20 immunity and exemption from liability for torts and negligence; to provide that the property
21 of the authority shall not be subject to levy and sale; to provide that certain moneys are trust
22 funds; to provide that this Act shall be liberally construed; to define the scope of the
23 authority's operation; to provide for disposition of property upon dissolution of the authority;
24 to provide for severability; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal
25 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

27 **SECTION 1.**

28 Short title.

29 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Union City Public Facilities Authority
30 Act."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 Union City Public Facilities Authority.

33 There is created a public body corporate and politic to be known as the Union City Public
34 Facilities Authority, which shall be an instrumentality and a public corporation of the State
35 of Georgia, the purpose of which shall be to acquire, construct, equip, maintain, and operate
36 certain projects for use by Union City for its governmental, proprietary, public, and
37 administrative functions. The authority shall not be a state institution or a department or
38 agency of the state, but shall be an instrumentality of the state, a mere creation of the state,
39 being a distinct corporate entity and exempt from the provisions of Article 2 of Chapter 17
40 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission Act."

41 The authority shall have its principal office in Union City, and its legal situs or residence for
42 the purposes of this Act shall be Union City.

43 **SECTION 3.**

44 Membership.

45 The authority shall consist of five members who shall be eligible to succeed themselves and
46 who shall be appointed by the mayor and council of Union City. No more than two members
47 of the authority may be members of said mayor and council. Any member of the authority
48 who is a member of said mayor and council shall serve for a term of office concurrent with
49 such person's term of office as a member of said mayor and council. Each member of the
50 authority who is not a member of said mayor and council shall serve for a term of office of
51 three years, except that the initial terms of office of those members first appointed to the
52 authority shall be specified at the time of appointment to be one, two, and, if no such member
53 is a member of the mayor and council, three years. After such initial terms, those members
54 who are not members of said mayor and council shall serve for terms of office of three years
55 each. Members of the authority shall serve for the terms of office so specified and until the
56 appointment and qualification of their respective successors. Vacancies on the authority
57 shall be filled by said mayor and council for the remainder of the unexpired term and until
58 the appointment and qualification of a successor. Immediately after their appointment, the
59 members of the authority shall enter upon their duties. The authority shall elect one of its
60 members as chairperson and one as vice chairperson. The secretary-treasurer of the authority
61 shall be appointed by the authority and need not be a member of the authority. Three
62 members of the authority shall constitute a quorum and no vacancy on the authority shall
63 impair the right of the quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the
64 authority and, in every instance, a majority vote of a quorum shall authorize any legal act of
65 the authority, including all things necessary to authorize and issue revenue bonds. The

66 members of the authority shall receive no compensation for their services but may be
67 reimbursed by the authority for the actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance
68 of their duties. The authority shall make rules and regulations for its own government and
69 shall have perpetual existence.

70 **SECTION 4.**

71 Definitions.

72 As used in this Act, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless
73 a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

74 (1) "Authority" shall mean the Union City Public Facilities Authority created by this Act.

75 (2) "Project" shall mean and include real and personal property acquired or held by the
76 authority, including all land, buildings, structures, sanitary and surface water sewers,
77 storm water management projects, historic preservation projects, and other public
78 property determined by the authority to be desirable for the efficient operation of any
79 department, board, office, commission, or agency of Union City, or of the State of
80 Georgia, in the performance of its governmental, proprietary, and administrative
81 functions.

82 (3) "Cost of project" shall include the cost of lands, buildings, improvements, machinery,
83 equipment, property, easements, rights, franchises, material, labor, services acquired or
84 contracted for, plans and specification, and financing charges; construction costs; interest
85 prior to and during construction; architectural, accounting, engineering, inspection,
86 administrative, fiscal, and legal expenses; expenses incident to determining the feasibility
87 or practicability of the project; and expenses incident to the acquiring, constructing,
88 equipping, and operating of any project or any part thereof and to the placing of the same
89 in operation.

90 (4) "Revenue bonds" shall mean revenue bonds issued under the provisions of Article 3
91 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law," or under the
92 provisions of this Act. The obligations authorized under this Act may be issued by the
93 authority in the manner authorized under the Revenue Bond Law.

94 **SECTION 5.**

95 Powers.

96 The authority shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate
97 the purposes and provisions of this Act, including, but without limiting the generality of the
98 foregoing, the power:

99 (1) To sue and be sued;

100 (2) To adopt and alter a corporate seal;

101 (3) To make and execute with public and private persons and corporations contracts,
102 trusts, leases, rental agreements, and other instruments relating to its projects and in
103 furtherance of the purposes of the authority, including contracts for the constructing,
104 renting, and leasing of its projects for the use of any county or municipality in this state;

105 (4) To acquire in its own name by purchase on such terms and conditions and in such
106 manner as it may deem proper or by gift, grant, lease, or otherwise, real and personal
107 property necessary or convenient for its corporate purposes, or rights and easements
108 therein, and to use the same so long as its corporate existence shall continue and to lease
109 or make contracts with respect to the use of or disposition of the same in any manner it
110 deems to the best advantage of the authority. Title to any such property shall be held by
111 the authority exclusively for the benefit of the public.

112 (5) To improve, extend, add to, reconstruct, renovate, or remodel any project or part
113 thereof already acquired;

- 114 (6) To pledge or assign any revenues, income, rent, charges, and fees received by the
115 authority;
- 116 (7) To appoint and select agents, engineers, architects, attorneys, fiscal agents,
117 accountants, and employees and to provide for their compensation and duties;
- 118 (8) To construct, reconstruct, acquire, own, alter, repair, remodel, maintain, extend,
119 improve, operate, manage, and equip projects located on land owned or leased by the
120 authority;
- 121 (9) To receive, accept, and use any contributions, loans, or grants by persons, firms, or
122 corporations, including the State of Georgia and the United States of America, and any
123 other contributions;
- 124 (10) To pay all or part of the costs of any project from the proceeds of revenue bonds of
125 the authority or from other lawful sources available to it;
- 126 (11) To prescribe rules and regulations for the operation of and to exercise police powers
127 over the projects managed or operated by the authority;
- 128 (12) To accept, receive, and administer gifts, grants, loans and devises of money,
129 material, and property of any kind, including loans and grants from the State of Georgia
130 or the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, upon such
131 terms and conditions as the State of Georgia or the United States of America or such
132 agency or instrumentality may impose;
- 133 (13) To sell, lease, exchange, transfer, assign, pledge, mortgage, dispose of, grant in
134 trust, or grant options for any real or personal property or interest therein in furtherance
135 of the purposes of the authority;
- 136 (14) As security for repayment of authority obligations, to pledge, mortgage, convey,
137 assign, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber any property, real or personal, of such
138 authority and to execute any trust agreement, indenture, or security agreement containing
139 any provisions not in conflict with law, which trust agreement, indenture, or security
140 agreement may provide for foreclosure or forced sale of any property of the authority

141 upon default, on such obligations, either in payment of principal or interest or in the
142 performance of any term or condition, as are contained in such agreement or indenture;
143 (15) To borrow money for any of its corporate purposes, to issue revenue bonds payable
144 solely from funds pledged for that purpose, and to provide for the payment of the same
145 and for the rights of the holders thereof;

146 (16) To exercise all powers usually possessed by private corporations performing similar
147 functions which are not in conflict with the Constitution and laws of this state; and

148 (17) Pursuant to proper resolution of the authority, to issue revenue bonds payable from
149 the rents and revenues of the authority and its projects, which bonds may be issued in
150 either fully negotiable coupon form, in which event they shall have all the qualities and
151 incidents of negotiable instruments under the laws of the State of Georgia, or which
152 bonds may be issued in whole or in part in nonnegotiable fully registered form without
153 coupons, payable to a designated payee or to the registered assigns of the payee with such
154 conversion privileges as the authority may provide, for the purpose of paying all or any
155 part of the cost associated with the projects authorized by the authority, including the cost
156 of constructing, reconstructing, equipping, extending, adding to, or improving such
157 projects or for the purpose of refunding, as provided in this Act, any such bonds of the
158 authority theretofore issued. If the proceeds of the bonds of any issue shall exceed the
159 amount required for the purpose for which such bonds were issued, the surplus shall be
160 paid into the fund provided for the payment of principal and interest on such bonds. All
161 such revenue bonds shall be issued and validated under and in accordance with the
162 procedures of Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the Revenue Bond
163 Law, and in accordance with all terms and provisions thereof not in conflict with this Act,
164 and in accordance with Code Section 50-17-1 of the O.C.G.A., relating to use of
165 facsimile signatures on public securities, and, as security for the payment of any revenue
166 bonds so authorized, any rents and revenue of the authority may be pledged and assigned.
167 Such bonds shall be declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental

168 purpose, and such bonds and all income therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation
169 within the State of Georgia. For the purpose of the exemption from taxation of such
170 bonds and the income therefrom, the authority shall be deemed to be a political
171 subdivision of the State of Georgia.

172 **SECTION 6.**

173 Credit not pledged and debt not created by bonds.

174 Revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall not constitute a debt or a pledge
175 of the faith and credit of the State of Georgia or Union City, but such bonds shall be payable
176 from the rentals, revenue, earnings, and funds of the authority as provided in the resolution
177 or trust agreement or indenture authorizing the issuance and securing the payment of such
178 bonds. The issuance of such bonds shall not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the
179 state or said municipality to levy or pledge any form of taxation for the payment thereof. No
180 holder of any bond or receiver or trustee in connection therewith shall have the right to
181 enforce the payment thereof against any property of the state or of said municipality, nor
182 shall any such bond constitute a charge, lien, or encumbrance, legal or equitable, upon any
183 such property. All such bonds shall contain on their face a recital setting forth substantially
184 the foregoing provisions of this section.

185 **SECTION 7.**

186 Trust agreement.

187 In the discretion of the authority, any issue of revenue bonds may be secured by an
188 agreement or indenture made by the authority with a corporate trustee, which may be any
189 trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the State of
190 Georgia. Such trust agreement or indenture may pledge and assign rents, fees, charges,

191 revenues, and earnings to be received by the authority. The resolution providing for the
192 issuance of revenue bonds and such trust agreement or indenture may contain provisions for
193 protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders, including the right of
194 appointment of a receiver upon default of the payment of any principal or interest obligation
195 and the right of any receiver or trustee to enforce collection of any rents, fees, charges, or
196 revenues for use of the project or projects necessary to pay all costs of operation and all
197 reserves provided for, all principal and interest on all bonds of the issue, all costs of
198 collection, and all other costs reasonably necessary to accomplish the collection of such sums
199 in the event of any default of the authority. Such resolution and such trust agreement or
200 indenture may include covenants setting forth the duties of the authority in relation to the
201 acquisition of property for and the construction of the project and to the custody,
202 safeguarding, and application of all funds and covenants providing for the operation,
203 maintenance, repair, and insurance of the project or projects and may contain provisions
204 concerning the conditions, if any, upon which additional revenue bonds may be issued. Such
205 trust agreement or indenture may set forth the rights and remedies of the bondholders and of
206 the trustee and may restrict the individual right of action of bondholders as is customary in
207 securing bonds and debentures of corporations and may contain such other provisions as the
208 authority may deem reasonable and proper for the security of the bondholders. All expenses
209 incurred in carrying out such trust may be treated as a part of the cost of maintenance,
210 operation, and repair of the project affected by such trust.

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SECTION 8.

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Refunding bonds.

213 The authority is authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance of revenue bonds of the
214 authority for the purpose of calling, refunding, or refinancing any revenue bonds issued
215 under the provisions of this Act and then outstanding and to include in the amount of such

216 refunding bonds all interest and any call premiums that may be required for the redemption
217 and refunding of such outstanding bonds.

218 **SECTION 9.**

219 Venue of actions, jurisdiction.

220 Any action to protect or enforce any rights under the provisions of this Act or any action
221 against the authority brought in the courts of the State of Georgia shall be brought in the
222 Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, and any action pertaining to validation of any
223 bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall be brought in said court, which shall have
224 exclusive, original jurisdiction of such actions.

225 **SECTION 10.**

226 Revenue bond validation.

227 The petition for validation of all revenue bonds of the authority shall be brought against the
228 authority, and any contracting party whose obligation is pledged as security for the payment
229 of the bonds sought to be validated, as defendants, and the defendants shall be required to
230 show cause, if any exists, why such contract or contracts and the terms and conditions thereof
231 shall not be adjudicated to be in all respects valid and binding upon such contracting parties.
232 It shall be incumbent upon such defendants to defend against adjudication of the validity and
233 binding effect of such contract or contracts or be forever bound thereby. Notice of such
234 proceedings shall be included in the notice of the validation hearing required to be issued and
235 published by the clerk of the Superior Court of Fulton County in which court such validation
236 proceedings shall be initiated.

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SECTION 11.

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Interest of bondholders protected.

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While any of the bonds issued by the authority remain outstanding, the powers, duties, or existence of the authority or of its officers, employees, or agents shall not be diminished, impaired, or affected in any manner that will affect adversely the interest and rights of the holders of such bonds. The provisions of this Act shall be for the benefit of the authority and the holders of any such bonds and, upon the issuance of bonds under the provisions of this Act, shall constitute a contract with the holders of such bonds.

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SECTION 12.

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Revenues, earnings, rents, and charges; use.

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(a) For the purpose of earning sufficient revenue to make possible the financing of the construction of the project or projects of the authority with revenue bonds, the authority is authorized and empowered to fix, revise, and collect rents, fees, and charges on each project which it shall cause to be acquired or constructed. Such rents, fees, or charges to be paid for the use of such project or projects shall be so fixed and adjusted so as to provide a fund sufficient with other revenue, if any, of such project or projects or of the authority:

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(1) To pay the cost of operating, maintaining, and repairing the project or projects, including reserves for insurance and extraordinary repairs and other reserves required by the resolution or trust agreement or indenture pertaining to such bonds and the issuance thereof, unless such cost shall be otherwise provided for;

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(2) To pay the principal of and interest on such revenue bonds as the same shall become due, including call premiums, if any, the proceeds of which shall have been or shall be used to pay the cost of such project or projects;

- 260 (3) To comply with any sinking fund requirements contained in the resolution or trust
261 agreement or indenture pertaining to the issuance of and security for such bonds;
- 262 (4) To perform fully all provisions of such resolution or trust agreement or indenture
263 relating to the issuance of or security for such bonds to the payment of which such rent
264 is pledged;
- 265 (5) To accumulate any excess income which may be required by the purchasers of such
266 bonds or may be dictated by the requirements of such resolution or trust agreement or
267 indenture, or which may be required for achieving ready marketability of and low interest
268 rates on such bonds; and
- 269 (6) To pay any expenses in connection with such bond issue or of such project,
270 including, but not limited to, trustees', attorney's, and fiscal agents' fees.
- 271 (b) Such rent shall be payable at such intervals as may be agreed upon and set forth in the
272 rental contract or lease providing therefor, and any such contract or lease may provide for the
273 commencement of rent payments to the authority prior to the completion of the project by
274 the authority and may provide for the payment of rent during such times as such project may
275 be partially or wholly untenable.
- 276 (c) Such rental contract or lease may obligate the tenants or lessees to operate, maintain, and
277 keep in good repair, including complete reconstruction, if necessary, the rented or leased
278 premises and projects, regardless of the cause of the necessity of such maintenance, repair,
279 or reconstruction.
- 280 (d) Such rental contract or lease may obligate the tenants or lessees to indemnify and save
281 harmless the authority from any and all damage to persons and property occurring on or by
282 reason of the leased property or improvements thereon and to undertake, at the expense of
283 the tenants or lessees, the defense of any action brought against the authority by reason of
284 injury or damages to persons or property occurring on or by reason of the leased premises.
- 285 (e) In the event of any failure or refusal on the part of the tenants or lessees to perform
286 punctually any covenant or obligation contained in any such rental contract or lease, the

287 authority may enforce performance by any legal or equitable process against the tenants or
288 lessees.

289 (f) The authority shall be permitted to assign any rent payable to it, pursuant to such rental
290 contract or lease, to a trustee or paying agent as may be required by the terms of the
291 resolution or trust agreement or indenture relating to the issuance of and security for such
292 bonds.

293 (g) The use and disposition of the authority's revenue shall be subject to the provisions of
294 the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds or of the trust agreement or indenture,
295 if any, securing the same.

296 **SECTION 13.**

297 **Sinking fund.**

298 The revenue, rents, and earnings derived from any particular project or projects and any and
299 all revenue, rents, and earnings received by the authority, regardless of whether such
300 revenue, rents, and earnings were produced by a particular project for which bonds have been
301 issued, unless otherwise pledged, may be pledged by the authority to payment of the
302 principal of and interest on revenue bonds of the authority as may be provided in any
303 resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds or in any trust instrument pertaining to such
304 bonds, and such funds so pledged, from whatever source received, may include funds
305 received from one or more or all sources and may be set aside at regular intervals into
306 sinking funds for which provision may be made in any such resolution or trust instrument
307 and which may be pledged to and charged with the payment of the interest upon such
308 revenue bonds as such interest shall become due, the principal of the bonds as the same shall
309 mature, the necessary charges of any trustee or paying agent for paying such principal and
310 interest, and any premium upon bonds retired by call or purchase, and the use and disposition
311 of any sinking fund may be subject to such regulation as may be provided for in the

312 resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or in the trust instrument securing the
313 payment of the same.

314 **SECTION 14.**

315 Taxation status.

316 The exercise of the powers conferred upon the authority under this Act shall constitute an
317 essential governmental function for a public purpose, and to the maximum extent permitted
318 by general law, the authority shall be required to pay no taxes or assessments upon any of the
319 property acquired by it or under its jurisdiction, control, possession, or supervision or upon
320 its activities in the operation and maintenance of property acquired by it or of buildings
321 erected or acquired by it or any fees, rents, or other charges for the use of such property or
322 buildings or other income received by the authority. This section shall not include an
323 exemption from sales and use tax on property purchased by or for the use of the authority.

324 **SECTION 15.**

325 Immunity from tort actions.

326 The authority shall have the same immunity and exemption from liability for torts and
327 negligence as a Georgia county, and the officers, agents, and employees of the authority,
328 when in performance of work of the authority, shall have the same immunity and exemption
329 from liability for torts and negligence as officers, agents, and employees of a Georgia county.
330 The authority may be sued the same as private corporations on any contractual obligation of
331 the authority.

332 **SECTION 16.**

333 Property not subject to levy and sale.

334 The property of the authority shall not be subject to levy and sale under legal process.

335 **SECTION 17.**

336 Trust funds.

337 All funds received pursuant to the authority of Section 12 of this Act, whether as proceeds
338 from the sale of revenue bonds or as revenue, rents, fees, charges, or other earnings or as
339 grants, gifts, or other contributions, shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied
340 by the authority, solely as provided in this Act. The bondholders entitled to receive the
341 benefits of such funds shall have a lien on all such funds until the same are applied as
342 provided for in any such resolution or trust instrument of the authority.

343 **SECTION 18.**

344 Construction.

345 This Act and any other law enacted with reference to the authority shall be liberally
346 construed for the accomplishment of the purposes of the authority.

347 **SECTION 19.**

348 Scope of operations.

349 The projects of the authority's operation shall be located in the territory embraced within the
350 jurisdictional limits of Union City as the same now or may hereafter exist.

351 **SECTION 20.**

352 Conveyance of property upon dissolution.

353 Should the authority for any reason be dissolved after full payment of all bonded
354 indebtedness incurred under this Act, both as to principal and interest, title to all property of
355 any kind and nature, real and personal, held by the authority at the time of such dissolution
356 shall be conveyed to Union City, or title to any such property may be conveyed prior to such
357 dissolution in accordance with provisions which may be made therefor in any resolution or
358 trust instrument relating to such property, subject to any liens, leases, or other encumbrances
359 outstanding against or in respect to said property at the time of such conveyance.

360 **SECTION 21.**

361 Severability; effect of partial invalidity of Act.

362 Should any sentence, clause, phrase, or part of this Act be declared for any reason to be
363 unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect such remainder of this Act or any part
364 hereof, other than the part so held to be invalid, but the remaining provisions of this Act shall
365 remain in full force and effect, and it is the express intention of this Act to enact each
366 provision of this Act independently of any other provision hereof.

367 **SECTION 22.**

368 General repealer.

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