

House Bill 675 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Williams of the 168th and DeLoach of the 167th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Riceboro, approved February 19,
2 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 4614), as amended, so as to revise provisions relating to residency
3 requirements for candidacy for the office of mayor or councilmember; to provide for election
4 by plurality; to revise provisions relating to filling vacancies in the office of mayor or
5 councilmember; to provide for compensation of the mayor pro tempore when serving as
6 mayor; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act to provide a new charter for the City of Riceboro, approved February 19, 1992 (Ga.
10 L. 1992, p. 4614), as amended, is amended by revising Sections 2.11 and 2.12 as follows:

11 "SECTION 2.11.

12 City council terms and qualifications for office.

13 (a) The mayor and members of the city council shall serve for terms of four years and until
14 their respective successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to serve

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15 as mayor or councilmember unless he or she shall have been a resident of the city for 12
16 consecutive months prior to the date of the election of the mayor or councilmembers;
17 provided, however, that this sentence shall not apply to any person serving as mayor or
18 councilmember on the effective date of this section. The mayor and each councilmember
19 shall continue to reside inside the city during his or her term of office and shall be
20 registered and qualified to vote in the city's municipal elections.

21 (b) As of the effective date of this section, in all municipal elections of the city, the person
22 receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be elected to office.

23 SECTION 2.12.

24 Vacancy; filling of vacancies; suspensions.

25 (a)(1) If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor or councilmember and there are more
26 than 12 months remaining in the unexpired term of office, a special election shall be held
27 pursuant to Section 5.14 of this charter and Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A. to elect
28 a person to serve out the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

29 (2) If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor and there are less than 12 months
30 remaining in the unexpired term of office, the mayor pro tempore shall become mayor.
31 In the event there is no mayor pro tempore at the time such vacancy occurs, a majority
32 of the remaining members of the city council shall appoint a councilmember to serve as
33 mayor.

34 (3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of a councilmember and there are less than 12
35 months remaining in the unexpired term of office, such office shall remain vacant for the
36 remainder of the term, unless and until the number of vacancies on the city council would
37 prevent a quorum from being achieved; in such event, the remaining councilmember shall
38 appoint a qualified elector of the city to serve out the remainder of such term.

39 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall also apply to any temporary
40 vacancy created by the suspension of the mayor or a councilmember from office."

41 **SECTION 2.**

42 Said Act is further amended adding a new section to read as follows:

43 "SECTION 2.13A.

44 Compensation of mayor pro tempore when serving as mayor.

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46 In the event the mayor pro tempore fills a vacancy in the office of mayor, the mayor pro
47 tempore shall be compensated at the same rate as provided by law for compensating the
48 mayor."

49 **SECTION 3.**

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