



VIOLA DAVIS
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 87
P.O. BOX 830726
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA, 30083
EMAIL: Viola.Davis@house.ga.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
404-656-0109

STANDING COMMITTEES
Health
Insurance
Natural Resources & Environment
Urban Affairs
Defense and Veterans Affairs

April 22, 2026

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp
Governor, State of Georgia
206 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Request for Veto – Constitutionally Defective Legislation (HB 369, HB 297, & SB 33)

Dear Governor Kemp:

I respectfully request your veto of House Bill 369, House Bill 297 (in conjunction with House Bill 1137), and Senate Bill 33. While each bill addresses distinct policy areas, they share a common and troubling issue: substantial constitutional defects and procedural irregularities that expose the State of Georgia to unnecessary legal risk and undermine public trust in the legislative process.

I. Senate Bill 33 – Violation of the Origination Clause

Senate Bill 33, as passed, establishes and modifies revenue mechanisms, including the creation of the Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST), and materially alters property tax structures and revenue generation.

Under the **Georgia Constitution, Article III, Section V, Paragraph II**, all bills for raising revenue must originate in the House of Representatives. SB 33 originated in the Senate.

This is not a technical defect; it is a **clear constitutional violation**. The bill raises and redistributes revenue and therefore falls squarely within the constitutional requirement. Enactment of SB 33 in its current form would likely result in immediate legal challenge and potential invalidation, placing state and local governments at financial and legal risk.

SB 33 originated as legislation addressing hemp-related policy and was subsequently converted into a comprehensive tax bill, representing a material change in subject matter that raises additional constitutional and procedural concern. SB 33 raises serious concerns under both the Origination Clause and constitutional requirements for transparency and single-subject legislation.

II. House Bill 369 – Special Law, Equal Protection, and Home Rule Violations



VIOLA DAVIS
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 87
P.O. BOX 830726
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA, 30083
EMAIL: Viola.Davis@house.ga.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
404-656-0109

STANDING COMMITTEES
Health
Insurance
Natural Resources & Environment
Urban Affairs
Defense and Veterans Affairs

House Bill 369 mandates nonpartisan elections for certain offices, but only within a limited number of counties. This raises several constitutional concerns:

- **Special Law Prohibition (Art. III, Sec. VI, Para. IV):**
The bill applies in practice to a narrow subset of counties rather than uniformly statewide, despite addressing a subject capable of general application.
- **Equal Protection Concerns:**
By creating different election systems for similarly situated offices based solely on geography, the bill risks violating both state and federal equal protection principles.
- **Home Rule Violations (Art. IX):**
The bill alters local election structures without providing for voter approval, directly conflicting with constitutional provisions governing local governance.
- **Constitutional Concerns:** HB 369's mandate of nonpartisan elections constitutes a substantive change to the manner of election. Under the 1978 constitutional amendment, such a change cannot take effect absent approval by the voters of DeKalb County. Accordingly, HB 369 cannot override the election structure established by the 1981 Act and the Constitution.

Additionally, District Attorneys are state officers. Imposing different election structures across counties creates a constitutionally problematic dual system for the same office.

III. House Bill 297 (originally started as HB 1137) – Constitutional Concerns, Voter Consent, Transparency, and Structural Concerns

House Bill 297 (originally started as HB 1137) extends the authority to collect a one percent sales tax under the MARTA Act through 2067. This raises serious concerns:

- **Voter Authorization and Referendum Integrity:**
The original tax framework was approved by voters with defined expectations. Extending that authority legislatively, without renewed voter approval, raises constitutional concerns regarding voter consent and the integrity of referendum-based taxation.
- **Single Subject Rule and Legislative Transparency (HB 297 concerns):**
Late-stage amendments and legislative substitutions, particularly when substantive, risk violating the **Single Subject Rule (Art. III, Sec. V, Para. III)** and undermine the transparency required for sound lawmaking.



VIOLA DAVIS
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 87
P.O. BOX 830726
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA, 30083
EMAIL: Viola.Davis@house.ga.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
404-656-0109

STANDING COMMITTEES
Health
Insurance
Natural Resources & Environment
Urban Affairs
Defense and Veterans Affairs

- **Public Trust and Due Process:**

When significant policy shifts occur late in the legislative process, the public is effectively denied meaningful notice and participation.

IV. Pattern of Legislative Process Concerns

Taken together, these bills reflect a broader procedural concern:

- Substantive policy changes introduced late in the process
- Bills evolving beyond their original scope
- Reduced transparency for both legislators and the public

This pattern, commonly described as a “bait and switch” and/or “Christmas tree,” undermines confidence in the legislative process and raises legitimate due process concerns.

Governor, the Constitution is the foundation of our governance. Regardless of policy intent, legislation that conflicts with constitutional requirements or bypasses established procedural safeguards must be addressed.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully urge you to: **VETO HB 369, HB 297, and SB 33.**

A veto will:

- Protect the State from costly and avoidable litigation
- Uphold constitutional integrity
- Reinforce transparency and public trust in government

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to the people of Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Viola Davis
Georgia House District 87



House of Representatives

KIM SCHOFIELD
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 63
P.O. BOX 161566
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30321
kim.schofield@house.ga.gov

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE
OFFICE BUILDING
Suite 608-B
ATLANTA, GA 30334
(404) 656-0298

STANDING COMMITTEES:
CREATIVE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH
LABOR & INDUSTRIES
URBAN AFFAIRS

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp
Governor, State of Georgia
206 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Request for Veto – Constitutionally Defective Legislation (HB 369, HB 297, & SB 33)

Dear Governor Kemp:

I am requesting your veto of House Bill 369, House Bill 297 (in conjunction with House Bill 1137), and Senate Bill 33. While each bill addresses distinct policy areas, they share a common and troubling issue: substantial constitutional defects and procedural irregularities that expose the State of Georgia to unnecessary legal risk and undermine public trust in the legislative process. This causes great concern for me and the residents in District 63, Fulton County.

I. Senate Bill 33 – Violation of the Origination Clause

Senate Bill 33, as passed, establishes and modifies revenue mechanisms, including the creation of the Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST), and materially alters property tax structures and revenue generation.

Under the **Georgia Constitution, Article III, Section V, Paragraph II**, all bills for raising revenue must originate in the House of Representatives. SB 33 originated in the Senate.

This is not a technical defect; it is a **clear constitutional violation**. The bill raises and redistributes revenue and therefore falls squarely within the constitutional requirement. Enactment of SB 33 in its current form would likely result in immediate legal challenge and potential invalidation, placing state and local governments at financial and legal risk.

II. House Bill 369 – Special Law, Equal Protection, and Home Rule Violations

House Bill 369 mandates nonpartisan elections for certain offices, but only within a limited number of counties. This raises several constitutional concerns:

- **Special Law Prohibition (Art. III, Sec. VI, Para. IV):**
The bill applies in practice to a narrow subset of counties rather than uniformly statewide, despite addressing a subject capable of general application.
- **Equal Protection Concerns:**



House of Representatives

KIM SCHOFIELD
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 63
P.O. BOX 161566
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30321
kim.schofield@house.ga.gov

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE
OFFICE BUILDING
Suite 608-B
ATLANTA, GA 30334
(404) 656-0298

STANDING COMMITTEES:
CREATIVE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH
LABOR & INDUSTRIES
URBAN AFFAIRS

By creating different election systems for similarly situated offices based solely on geography, the bill risks violating both state and federal equal protection principles.

- **Home Rule Violations (Art. IX):**
The bill alters local election structures without providing for voter approval, directly conflicting with constitutional provisions governing local governance.
- **Constitutional Concerns:** HB 369's mandate of nonpartisan elections constitutes a substantive change to the manner of election. Under the 1978 constitutional amendment, such a change cannot take effect absent approval by the voters of Fulton County. Accordingly, HB 369 cannot override the election structure established by the 1981 Act and the Constitution.

Additionally, District Attorneys are state officers. Imposing different election structures across counties creates a constitutionally problematic dual system for the same office.

III. House Bill 297 (originally started as HB 1137) – Constitutional Concerns, Voter Consent, Transparency, and Structural Concerns

House Bill 297 (originally started as 1137) extends the authority to collect a one percent sales tax under the MARTA Act through 2067. This raises serious concerns:

- **Voter Authorization and Referendum Integrity:**
The original tax framework was approved by voters with defined expectations. Extending that authority legislatively, without renewed voter approval, raises constitutional concerns regarding voter consent and the integrity of referendum-based taxation.
- **Single Subject Rule and Legislative Transparency (HB 297 concerns):**
Late-stage amendments and legislative substitutions, particularly when substantive, risk violating the **Single Subject Rule (Art. III, Sec. V, Para. III)** and undermine the transparency required for sound lawmaking.
- **Public Trust and Due Process:**
When significant policy shifts occur late in the legislative process, the public is effectively denied meaningful notice and participation.



House of Representatives

KIM SCHOFIELD
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 63
P.O. BOX 161566
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30321
kim.schofield@house.ga.gov

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE
OFFICE BUILDING
Suite 608-B
ATLANTA, GA 30334
(404) 656-0298

STANDING COMMITTEES:
CREATIVE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH
LABOR & INDUSTRIES
URBAN AFFAIRS

IV. Pattern of Legislative Process Concerns

Taken together, these bills reflect a broader procedural concern:

- Substantive policy changes introduced late in the process
- Bills evolving beyond their original scope
- Reduced transparency for both legislators and the public

This pattern, described as a “**bait and switch**” and/or “**Christmas Tree**”, undermines confidence in the legislative process and raises legitimate due process concerns.

Governor, the Constitution is the foundation of our governance and my responsibility as a public servant. Regardless of policy intent, legislation that conflicts with constitutional requirements or bypasses established procedural safeguards must be addressed.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully urge you to: **VETO HB 369, HB 297, and SB 33.**

A veto will:

- Protect the State from costly and avoidable litigation
- Uphold constitutional integrity
- Reinforce transparency and public trust in government

Please feel free to contact me at 404-656-0298 or kim.schofield@house.ga.gov.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to the people of Georgia.

Respectfully,

Rep. Kim Schofield, D63
Georgia General Assembly



House of Representatives

SANDRA SCOTT
MINORITY CAUCUS CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 76
18 CAPITOL SQUARE, CLOB 611
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(678) 283-7149 (C)

EMAIL: sandragivensscott@gmail.com

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
404 -656-0314 OFFICE
404 -651-8086 FAX

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

BANKS AND BANKING
DEFENSE & VETERANS AFFAIRS
HUMAN RELATIONS & AGING
INSURANCE
REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp
Governor, State of Georgia
206 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Request for Veto – Constitutionally Defective Legislation (HB 369, HB 297, & SB 33)

Dear Governor Kemp:

I respectfully request your veto of House Bill 369, House Bill 297 (in conjunction with House Bill 1137), and Senate Bill 33. While each bill addresses distinct policy areas, they share a common and troubling issue: substantial constitutional defects and procedural irregularities that expose the State of Georgia to unnecessary legal risk and undermine public trust in the legislative process.

I. Senate Bill 33 – Violation of the Origination Clause

Senate Bill 33, as passed, establishes and modifies revenue mechanisms, including the creation of the Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST), and materially alters property tax structures and revenue generation.

Under the **Georgia Constitution, Article III, Section V, Paragraph II**, all bills for raising revenue must originate in the House of Representatives. SB 33 originated in the Senate.

This is not a technical defect; it is a **clear constitutional violation**. The bill raises and redistributes revenue and therefore falls squarely within the constitutional requirement. Enactment of SB 33 in its current form would likely result in immediate legal challenge and potential invalidation, placing state and local governments at financial and legal risk.



House of Representatives

SANDRA SCOTT
MINORITY CAUCUS CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 76
18 CAPITOL SQUARE, CLOB 611
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(678) 283-7149 (C)

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
404 -656-0314 OFFICE
404 -651-8086 FAX

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

BANKS AND BANKING
DEFENSE & VETERANS AFFAIRS
HUMAN RELATIONS & AGING
INSURANCE
REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING

EMAIL: sandragivensscott@gmail.com

II. House Bill 369 – Special Law, Equal Protection, and Home Rule Violations

House Bill 369 mandates nonpartisan elections for certain offices, but only within a limited number of counties. This raises several constitutional concerns:

- **Special Law Prohibition (Art. III, Sec. VI, Para. IV):**
The bill applies in practice to a narrow subset of counties rather than uniformly statewide, despite addressing a subject capable of general application.
- **Equal Protection Concerns:**
By creating different election systems for similarly situated offices based solely on geography, the bill risks violating both state and federal equal protection principles.
- **Home Rule Violations (Art. IX):**
The bill alters local election structures without providing for voter approval, directly conflicting with constitutional provisions governing local governance.
- **Constitutional Concerns:** HB 369's mandate of nonpartisan elections constitutes a substantive change to the manner of election. Under the 1978 constitutional amendment, such a change cannot take effect absent approval by the voters of Clayton County. Accordingly, HB 369 cannot override the election structure established by the 1981 Act and the Constitution.

Additionally, District Attorneys are state officers. Imposing different election structures across counties creates a constitutionally problematic dual system for the same office.

III. House Bill 297 (originally started as HB 1137) – Constitutional Concerns, Voter Consent, Transparency, and Structural Concerns

House Bill 297 (originally started as 1137) extends the authority to collect a one percent sales tax under the MARTA Act through 2067. This raises serious concerns:

- **Voter Authorization and Referendum Integrity:**
The original tax framework was approved by voters with defined expectations. Extending that authority



House of Representatives

SANDRA SCOTT
MINORITY CAUCUS CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 76
18 CAPITOL SQUARE, CLOB 611
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(678) 283-7149 (C)

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
404 -656-0314 OFFICE
404 -651-8086 FAX

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

BANKS AND BANKING
DEFENSE & VETERANS AFFAIRS
HUMAN RELATIONS & AGING
INSURANCE
REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING

EMAIL: sandragivensscott@gmail.com

legislatively, without renewed voter approval, raises constitutional concerns regarding voter consent and the integrity of referendum-based taxation.

- **Single Subject Rule and Legislative Transparency (HB 297 concerns):**

Late-stage amendments and legislative substitutions, particularly when substantive, risk violating the **Single Subject Rule (Art. III, Sec. V, Para. III)** and undermine the transparency required for sound lawmaking.

- **Public Trust and Due Process:**

When significant policy shifts occur late in the legislative process, the public is effectively denied meaningful notice and participation.

IV. Pattern of Legislative Process Concerns

Taken together, these bills reflect a broader procedural concern:

- Substantive policy changes introduced late in the process
- Bills evolving beyond their original scope
- Reduced transparency for both legislators and the public

This pattern, commonly described as a **“bait and switch”** and/or **“Christmas Tree”**, undermines confidence in the legislative process and raises legitimate due process concerns.

Governor, the Constitution is the foundation of our governance. Regardless of policy intent, legislation that conflicts with constitutional requirements or bypasses established procedural safeguards must be addressed.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully urge you to: **VETO HB 369, HB 297, and SB 33.**

A veto will:

- Protect the State from costly and avoidable litigation
- Uphold constitutional integrity
- Reinforce transparency and public trust in government



House of Representatives

SANDRA SCOTT
MINORITY CAUCUS CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 76
18 CAPITOL SQUARE, CLOB 611
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(678) 283-7149 (C)

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

404 -656-0314 OFFICE
404 -651-8086 FAX

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

BANKS AND BANKING
DEFENSE & VETERANS AFFAIRS
HUMAN RELATIONS & AGING
INSURANCE
REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING

EMAIL: sandragivensscott@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to the people of Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Sandra G. Scott
Georgia House District 76

**I. Senate Bill 33 –
Violation of the
Origination Clause**

JUSTIA

Art. III

ARTICLE III.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION I.

LEGISLATIVE POWER

Paragraph I. **Power vested in General Assembly.** The legislative power of the state shall be vested in a General Assembly which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

SECTION II.

COMPOSITION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Paragraph I. **Senate and House of Representatives.** (a) The Senate shall consist of not more than 56 Senators, each of whom shall be elected from single-member districts.

(b) The House of Representatives shall consist of not fewer than 180 Representatives apportioned among representative districts of the state.

Paragraph II. **Apportionment of General Assembly.** The General Assembly shall apportion the Senate and House districts. Such districts shall be composed of contiguous territory. The apportionment of the Senate and of the House of Representatives shall be changed by the General Assembly as necessary after each United States decennial census.

Paragraph III. **Qualifications of members of General Assembly.** (a) At the time of their election, the members of the Senate shall be citizens of the United States, shall be at least 25 years of age, shall have been citizens of this state for at least two years, and shall have been legal residents of the territory embraced within the district from which elected for at least one year.

(b) At the time of their election, the members of the House of Representatives shall be citizens of the United States, shall be at least 21 years of age, shall have been citizens of this state for at least two years, and shall have been legal residents of the territory embraced within the district from which elected for at least one year.

Paragraph IV. **Disqualifications.** (a) No person on active duty with any branch of the armed forces of the United States shall have a seat in either house unless otherwise provided by law.

(b) No person holding any civil appointment or office having any emolument annexed thereto under the United States, this state, or any other state shall have a seat in either house.

(c) No Senator or Representative shall be elected by the General Assembly or appointed by the Governor to any office or appointment having any emolument annexed thereto during the time for which such person shall have been elected unless the Senator or Representative shall first resign the seat to which elected; provided, however, that, during the term for which elected, no Senator or Representative shall be appointed to any civil office which has been created during such term.

Paragraph V. **Election and term of members.** (a) The members of the General Assembly shall be elected by the qualified electors of their respective districts for a term of two years and shall serve until the time fixed for the convening of the next General Assembly.

(b) The members of the General Assembly in office on June 30, 1983, shall serve out the remainder of the terms to which elected.

(c) The first election for members of the General Assembly under this Constitution shall take place on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1984, and subsequent elections biennially on that day until the day of election is changed by law.

expulsion; but no member shall be expelled except by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the house to which such member belongs.

Paragraph VIII. **Contempts, how punished.** Each house may punish by imprisonment, not extending beyond the session, any person not a member who shall be guilty of a contempt by any disorderly behavior in its presence or who shall rescue or attempt to rescue any person arrested by order of either house.

Paragraph IX. **Privilege of members.** The members of both houses shall be free from arrest during sessions of the General Assembly, or committee meetings thereof, and in going thereto or returning therefrom, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace. No member shall be liable to answer in any other place for anything spoken in either house or in any committee meeting of either house.

Paragraph X. **Elections by either house.** All elections by either house of the General Assembly shall be by recorded vote, and the vote shall appear on the respective journal of each house.

Paragraph XI. **Open meetings.** The sessions of the General Assembly and all standing committee meetings thereof shall be open to the public. Either house may by rule provide for exceptions to this requirement.

SECTION V.

ENACTMENT OF LAWS

Paragraph I. **Journals and laws.** Each house shall keep and publish after its adjournment a journal of its proceedings. The original journals shall be the sole, official records of the proceedings of each house and shall be preserved as provided by law. The General Assembly shall provide for the publication of the laws passed at each session.

Paragraph II. **Bills for revenue.** All bills for raising revenue, or appropriating money, shall originate in the House of Representatives.

Paragraph III. **One subject matter expressed.** No bill shall pass which refers to more than one subject matter or contains matter different from what is expressed in the title thereof.

Paragraph IV. **Statutes and sections of Code, how amended.** No law or section of the Code shall be amended or repealed by mere reference to its title or to the number of the section of the Code; but the amending or repealing Act shall distinctly describe the law or Code section to be amended or repealed as well as the alteration to be made.

Paragraph V. **Majority of members to pass bill.** No bill shall become law unless it shall receive a majority of the votes of all the members to which each house is entitled, and such vote shall so appear on the journal of each house.

Paragraph VI. **When roll-call vote taken.** In either house, when ordered by the presiding officer or at the desire of one-fifth of the members present or a lesser number if so provided by the rules of either house, a roll-call vote on any question shall be taken and shall be entered on the journal. The yeas and nays in each house shall be recorded and entered on the journal upon the passage or rejection of any bill or resolution appropriating money and whenever the Constitution requires a vote of two-thirds of either or both houses for the passage of a bill or resolution.

Paragraph VII. **Reading of general bills.** The title of every general bill and of every resolution intended to have the effect of general law or to amend this Constitution or to propose a new Constitution shall be read three times and on three separate days in each house before such bill or resolution shall be voted upon; and the third reading of such bill and resolution shall be in their entirety when ordered by the presiding officer or by a majority of the members voting on such question in either house.

Paragraph VIII. **Procedure for considering local legislation.** The General Assembly may provide by law for the procedure for considering local legislation. The title of every local bill and every resolution intended to have the effect of local law shall be read at least once before such bill or resolution shall be voted upon; and no such bill or resolution shall be voted upon prior to the second day following the day of introduction.

Paragraph IX. **Advertisement of notice to introduce local legislation.** The General Assembly shall provide by law for the advertisement of notice of intention to introduce local bills.

Paragraph X. **Acts signed.** All Acts shall be signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Paragraph XI. **Signature of Governor.** No provision in this Constitution for a two-thirds' vote of both houses of the General Assembly shall be construed to waive the necessity for the signature of the Governor as in any other case, except in the case of the

**II. House Bill 369 –
Special Law, Equal
Protection, and Home
Rule Violations**

JUSTIA

Art. III

ARTICLE III.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION I.

LEGISLATIVE POWER

Paragraph I. **Power vested in General Assembly.** The legislative power of the state shall be vested in a General Assembly which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

SECTION II.

COMPOSITION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Paragraph I. **Senate and House of Representatives.** (a) The Senate shall consist of not more than 56 Senators, each of whom shall be elected from single-member districts.

(b) The House of Representatives shall consist of not fewer than 180 Representatives apportioned among representative districts of the state.

Paragraph II. **Apportionment of General Assembly.** The General Assembly shall apportion the Senate and House districts. Such districts shall be composed of contiguous territory. The apportionment of the Senate and of the House of Representatives shall be changed by the General Assembly as necessary after each United States decennial census.

expulsion; but no member shall be expelled except by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the house to which such member belongs.

Paragraph VIII. **Contempts, how punished.** Each house may punish by imprisonment, not extending beyond the session, any person not a member who shall be guilty of a contempt by any disorderly behavior in its presence or who shall rescue or attempt to rescue any person arrested by order of either house.

Paragraph IX. **Privilege of members.** The members of both houses shall be free from arrest during sessions of the General Assembly, or committee meetings thereof, and in going thereto or returning therefrom, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace. No member shall be liable to answer in any other place for anything spoken in either house or in any committee meeting of either house.

Paragraph X. **Elections by either house.** All elections by either house of the General Assembly shall be by recorded vote, and the vote shall appear on the respective journal of each house.

Paragraph XI. **Open meetings.** The sessions of the General Assembly and all standing committee meetings thereof shall be open to the public. Either house may by rule provide for exceptions to this requirement.

SECTION V.

ENACTMENT OF LAWS

Paragraph I. **Journals and laws.** Each house shall keep and publish after its adjournment a journal of its proceedings. The original journals shall be the sole, official records of the proceedings of each house and shall be preserved as provided by law. The General Assembly shall provide for the publication of the laws passed at each session.

Paragraph II. **Bills for revenue.** All bills for raising revenue, or appropriating money, shall originate in the House of Representatives.

Paragraph III. **One subject matter expressed.** No bill shall pass which refers to more than one subject matter or contains matter different from what is expressed in the title thereof.

Paragraph IV. **Statutes and sections of Code, how amended.** No law or section of the Code shall be amended or repealed by mere reference to its title or to the number of the section of the Code; but the amending or repealing Act shall distinctly describe the law or Code section to be amended or repealed as well as the alteration to be made.

Paragraph V. **Majority of members to pass bill.** No bill shall become law unless it shall receive a majority of the votes of all the members to which each house is entitled, and such vote shall so appear on the journal of each house.

Paragraph VI. **When roll-call vote taken.** In either house, when ordered by the presiding officer or at the desire of one-fifth of the members present or a lesser number if so provided by the rules of either house, a roll-call vote on any question shall be taken and shall be entered on the journal. The yeas and nays in each house shall be recorded and entered on the journal upon the passage or rejection of any bill or resolution appropriating money and whenever the Constitution requires a vote of two-thirds of either or both houses for the passage of a bill or resolution.

Paragraph VII. **Reading of general bills.** The title of every general bill and of every resolution intended to have the effect of general law or to amend this Constitution or to propose a new Constitution shall be read three times and on three separate days in each house before such bill or resolution shall be voted upon; and the third reading of such bill and resolution shall be in their entirety when ordered by the presiding officer or by a majority of the members voting on such question in either house.

Paragraph VIII. **Procedure for considering local legislation.** The General Assembly may provide by law for the procedure for considering local legislation. The title of every local bill and every resolution intended to have the effect of local law shall be read at least once before such bill or resolution shall be voted upon; and no such bill or resolution shall be voted upon prior to the second day following the day of introduction.

Paragraph IX. **Advertisement of notice to introduce local legislation.** The General Assembly shall provide by law for the advertisement of notice of intention to introduce local bills.

Paragraph X. **Acts signed.** All Acts shall be signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Paragraph XI. **Signature of Governor.** No provision in this Constitution for a two-thirds' vote of both houses of the General Assembly shall be construed to waive the necessity for the signature of the Governor as in any other case, except in the case of the

two-thirds' vote required to override the veto or to submit proposed constitutional amendments or a proposal for a new Constitution.

Paragraph XII. **Rejected bills.** No bill or resolution intended to have the effect of law which shall have been rejected by either house shall again be proposed during the same regular or special session under the same or any other title without the consent of two-thirds of the house by which the same was rejected.

Paragraph XIII. **Approval, veto, and override of veto of bills and resolutions.** (a) All bills and all resolutions which have been passed by the General Assembly intended to have the effect of law shall become law if the Governor approves or fails to veto the same within six days from the date any such bill or resolution is transmitted to the Governor unless the General Assembly adjourns sine die or adjourns for more than 40 days prior to the expiration of said six days. In the case of such adjournment sine die or of such adjournment for more than 40 days, the same shall become law if approved or not vetoed by the Governor within 40 days from the date of any such adjournment.

(b) During sessions of the General Assembly or during any period of adjournment of a session of the General Assembly, no bill or resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor after passage except upon request of the Governor or upon order of two-thirds of the membership of each house. A local bill which is required by the Constitution to have a referendum election conducted before it shall become effective shall be transmitted immediately to the Governor when ordered by the presiding officer of the house wherein the bill shall have originated or upon order of two-thirds of the membership of such house.

(c) The Governor shall have the duty to transmit any vetoed bill or resolution, together with the reasons for such veto, to the presiding officer of the house wherein it originated within three days from the date of veto if the General Assembly is in session on the date of transmission. If the General Assembly adjourns sine die or adjourns for more than 40 days, the Governor shall transmit any vetoed bill or resolution, together with the reasons for such veto, to the presiding officer of the house wherein it originated within 60 days of the date of such adjournment.

(d) During sessions of the General Assembly, any vetoed bill or resolution may upon receipt be immediately considered by the house wherein it originated for the purpose of overriding the veto. If two-thirds of the members to which such house is entitled vote to override the veto of the Governor, the same shall be immediately transmitted to the other house where it shall be immediately considered. Upon the vote to override the veto by two-thirds of the members to which such other house is entitled, such bill or resolution shall become law. All

bills and resolutions vetoed during the last three days of the session and not considered for the purpose of overriding the veto and all bills and resolutions vetoed after the General Assembly has adjourned sine die may be considered at the next session of the General Assembly for the purpose of overriding the veto in the manner herein provided. If either house shall fail to override the Governor's veto, neither house shall again consider such bill or resolution for the purpose of overriding such veto.

(e) The Governor may approve any appropriation and veto any other appropriation in the same bill, and any appropriation vetoed shall not become law unless such veto is overridden in the manner herein provided.

Paragraph XIV. **Jointly sponsored bills and resolutions.** The General Assembly may provide by law for the joint sponsorship of bills and resolutions.

SECTION VI.

EXERCISE OF POWER

Paragraph I. **General powers.** The General Assembly shall have the power to make all laws not inconsistent with this Constitution, and not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States, which it shall deem necessary and proper for the welfare of the state.

Paragraph II. **Specific powers.** (a) Without limitation of the powers granted under Paragraph I, the General Assembly shall have the power to provide by law for:

(1) Restrictions upon land use in order to protect and preserve the natural resources, environment, and vital areas of this state.

(2) A militia and for the trial by courts-martial and nonjudicial punishment of its members, the discipline of whom, when not in federal service, shall be in accordance with law and the directives of the Governor acting as commander in chief.

(3) The participation by the state and political subdivisions and instrumentalities of the state in federal programs and the compliance with laws relating thereto, including but not limited to the powers, which may be exercised to the extent and in the manner necessary to effect such participation and compliance, to tax, to expend public money, to condemn property, and to zone property.

(4) The continuity of state and local governments in periods of emergency resulting from disasters caused by enemy attack including but not limited to the suspension of all constitutional legislative rules during such emergency.

(5) The participation by the state with any county, municipality, nonprofit organization, or any combination thereof in the operation of any of the facilities operated by such agencies for the purpose of encouraging and promoting tourism in this state.

(6) The control and regulation of outdoor advertising devices adjacent to federal aid interstate and primary highways and for the acquisition of property or interest therein for such purposes and may exercise the powers of taxation and provide for the expenditure of public funds in connection therewith.

(b) The General Assembly shall have the power to implement the provisions of Article I, Section III, Paragraph I(2.); Article IV, Section VIII, Paragraph II; Article IV, Section VIII, Paragraph III; and Article X, Section II, Paragraph XII of the Constitution of 1976 in force and effect on June 30, 1983; and all laws heretofore adopted thereunder and valid at the time of their enactment shall continue in force and effect until modified or repealed.

(c) The distribution of tractors, farm equipment, heavy equipment, new motor vehicles, and parts therefor in the State of Georgia vitally affects the general economy of the state and the public interest and public welfare. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article I, Section I, Paragraphs I, II, and III or Article III, Section VI, Paragraph V(c) of this Constitution, the General Assembly in the exercise of its police power shall be authorized to regulate tractor, farm equipment, heavy equipment, and new motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and their representatives doing business in Georgia, including agreements among such parties, in order to prevent frauds, unfair business practices, unfair methods of competition, impositions, and other abuses upon its citizens. Any law enacted by the General Assembly shall not impair the obligation of an existing contract but may apply with respect to the renewal of such a contract after the effective date of such law.

Paragraph III. **Powers not to be abridged.** The General Assembly shall not abridge its powers under this Constitution. No law enacted by the General Assembly shall be construed to limit its powers.

Paragraph IV. Limitations on special legislation. (a) Laws of a general nature shall have uniform operation throughout this state and no local or special law shall be enacted in any case for which provision has been made by an existing general law, except that the

JUSTIA

Art. IX

ARTICLE IX.

COUNTIES AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

SECTION I.

COUNTIES

Paragraph I. **Counties a body corporate and politic.** Each county shall be a body corporate and politic with such governing authority and with such powers and limitations as are provided in this Constitution and as provided by law. The governing authorities of the several counties shall remain as prescribed by law on June 30, 1983, until otherwise provided by law.

Paragraph II. Number of counties limited; county boundaries and county sites; county consolidation. (a) There shall not be more than 159 counties in this state.

(b) The metes and bounds of the several counties and the county sites shall remain as prescribed by law on June 30, 1983, unless changed under the operation of a general law.

(c) The General Assembly may provide by law for the consolidation of two or more counties into one or the division of a county and the merger of portions thereof into other counties under such terms and conditions as it may prescribe; but no such consolidation, division, or merger shall become effective unless approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon in each of the counties proposed to be consolidated, divided, or merged.

Paragraph III. **County officers; election; term; compensation.** (a) The clerk of the superior court, judge of the probate court, sheriff, tax receiver, tax collector, and tax commissioner, where such office has replaced the tax receiver and tax collector, shall be elected by the qualified voters of their respective counties for terms of four years and shall have such qualifications, powers, and duties as provided by general law.

(b) County officers listed in subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph may be on a fee basis, salary basis, or fee basis supplemented by salary, in such manner as may be directed by law. Minimum compensation for said county officers may be established by the General Assembly by general law. Such minimum compensation may be supplemented by local law or, if such authority is delegated by local law, by action of the county governing authority.

(c) The General Assembly may consolidate the offices of tax receiver and tax collector into the office of tax commissioner.

Paragraph IV. **Civil service systems.** The General Assembly may by general law authorize the establishment by county governing authorities of civil service systems covering county employees or covering county employees and employees of the elected county officers.

SECTION II.

HOME RULE FOR COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

Paragraph I. **Home rule for counties.** (a) The governing authority of each county shall have legislative power to adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions, or regulations relating to its property, affairs, and local government for which no provision has been made by general law and which is not inconsistent with this Constitution or any local law applicable thereto. Any such local law shall remain in force and effect until amended or repealed as provided in subparagraph (b). This, however, shall not restrict the authority of the General Assembly by general law to further define this power or to broaden, limit, or otherwise regulate the exercise thereof. The General Assembly shall not pass any local law to repeal, modify, or supersede any action taken by a county governing authority under this section except as authorized under subparagraph (c) hereof.

(b) Except as provided in subparagraph (c), a county may, as an incident of its home rule power, amend or repeal the local acts applicable to its governing authority by following either of the procedures hereinafter set forth:

(1) Such local acts may be amended or repealed by a resolution or ordinance duly adopted at two regular consecutive meetings of the county governing authority not less than seven nor more than 60 days apart. A notice containing a synopsis of the proposed amendment or repeal shall be published in the official county organ once a week for three weeks within a period of 60 days immediately preceding its final adoption. Such notice shall state that a copy of the proposed amendment or repeal is on file in the office of the clerk of the superior court of the county for the purpose of examination and inspection by the public. The clerk

of the superior court shall furnish anyone, upon written request, a copy of the proposed amendment or repeal. No amendment or repeal hereunder shall be valid to change or repeal an amendment adopted pursuant to a referendum as provided in (2) of this subparagraph or to change or repeal a local act of the General Assembly ratified in a referendum by the electors of such county unless at least 12 months have elapsed after such referendum. No amendment hereunder shall be valid if inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution or if provision has been made therefor by general law.

(2) Amendments to or repeals of such local acts or ordinances, resolutions, or regulations adopted pursuant to subparagraph (a) hereof may be initiated by a petition filed with the judge of the probate court of the county containing, in cases of counties with a population of 5,000 or less, the signatures of at least 25 percent of the electors registered to vote in the last general election; in cases of counties with a population of more than 5,000 but not more than 50,000, at least 20 percent of the electors registered to vote in the last general election; and, in cases of a county with a population of more than 50,000, at least 10 percent of the electors registered to vote in the last general election, which petition shall specifically set forth the exact language of the proposed amendment or repeal. The judge of the probate court shall determine the validity of such petition within 60 days of its being filed with the judge of the probate court. In the event the judge of the probate court determines that such petition is valid, it shall be his duty to issue the call for an election for the purpose of submitting such amendment or repeal to the registered electors of the county for their approval or rejection. Such call shall be issued not less than ten nor more than 60 days after the date of the filing of the petition. He shall set the date of such election for a day not less than 60 nor more than 90 days after the date of such filing. The judge of the probate court shall cause a notice of the date of said election to be published in the official organ of the county once a week for three weeks immediately preceding such date. Said notice shall also contain a synopsis of the proposed amendment or repeal and shall state that a copy thereof is on file in the office of the judge of the probate court of the county for the purpose of examination and inspection by the public. The judge of the probate court shall furnish anyone, upon written request, a copy of the proposed amendment or repeal. If more than one-half of the votes cast on such question are for approval of the amendment or repeal, it shall become of full force and effect; otherwise, it shall be void and of no force and effect. The expense of such election shall be borne by the county, and it shall be the duty of the judge of the probate court to hold and conduct such election. Such election shall be held under the same laws and rules and regulations as govern special elections, except as otherwise provided herein. It shall be the duty of the judge of the probate court to canvass the returns and declare and certify the result of the election. It shall be his further duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State in

accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (g) of this Paragraph. A referendum on any such amendment or repeal shall not be held more often than once each year. No amendment hereunder shall be valid if inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution or if provision has been made therefor by general law.

In the event that the judge of the probate court determines that such petition was not valid, he shall cause to be published in explicit detail the reasons why such petition is not valid; provided, however, that, in any proceeding in which the validity of the petition is at issue, the tribunal considering such issue shall not be limited by the reasons assigned. Such publication shall be in the official organ of the county in the week immediately following the date on which such petition is declared to be not valid.

(c) The power granted to counties in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above shall not be construed to extend to the following matters or any other matters which the General Assembly by general law has preempted or may hereafter preempt, but such matters shall be the subject of general law or the subject of local acts of the General Assembly to the extent that the enactment of such local acts is otherwise permitted under this Constitution:

- (1) Action affecting any elective county office, the salaries thereof, or the personnel thereof, except the personnel subject to the jurisdiction of the county governing authority.
- (2) Action affecting the composition, form, procedure for election or appointment, compensation, and expenses and allowances in the nature of compensation of the county governing authority.
- (3) Action defining any criminal offense or providing for criminal punishment.
- (4) Action adopting any form of taxation beyond that authorized by law or by this Constitution.
- (5) Action extending the power of regulation over any business activity regulated by the Georgia Public Service Commission beyond that authorized by local or general law or by this Constitution.
- (6) Action affecting the exercise of the power of eminent domain.
- (7) Action affecting any court or the personnel thereof.
- (8) Action affecting any public school system.

(d) The power granted in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph shall not include the power to take any action affecting the private or civil law governing private or civil relationships, except as is incident to the exercise of an independent governmental power.

(e) Nothing in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), or (d) shall affect the provisions of subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph.

(f) The governing authority of each county is authorized to fix the salary, compensation, and expenses of those employed by such governing authority and to establish and maintain retirement or pension systems, insurance, workers' compensation, and hospitalization benefits for said employees.

(g) No amendment or revision of any local act made pursuant to subparagraph (b) of this section shall become effective until a copy of such amendment or revision, a copy of the required notice of publication, and an affidavit of a duly authorized representative of the newspaper in which such notice was published to the effect that said notice has been published as provided in said subparagraph has been filed with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall provide for the publication and distribution of all such amendments and revisions at least annually.

Paragraph II. **Home rule for municipalities.** The General Assembly may provide by law for the self-government of municipalities and to that end is expressly given the authority to delegate its power so that matters pertaining to municipalities may be dealt with without the necessity of action by the General Assembly.

Paragraph III. **Supplementary powers.** (a) In addition to and supplementary of all powers possessed by or conferred upon any county, municipality, or any combination thereof, any county, municipality, or any combination thereof may exercise the following powers and provide the following services:

(1) Police and fire protection.

(2) Garbage and solid waste collection and disposal.

(3) Public health facilities and services, including hospitals, ambulance and emergency rescue services, and animal control.

(4) Street and road construction and maintenance, including curbs, sidewalks, street lights, and devices to control the flow of traffic on streets and roads constructed by counties and municipalities or any combination thereof.

- (5) Parks, recreational areas, programs, and facilities.
 - (6) Storm water and sewage collection and disposal systems.
 - (7) Development, storage, treatment, purification, and distribution of water.
 - (8) Public housing.
 - (9) Public transportation.
 - (10) Libraries, archives, and arts and sciences programs and facilities.
 - (11) Terminal and dock facilities and parking facilities.
 - (12) Codes, including building, housing, plumbing, and electrical codes.
 - (13) Air quality control.
 - (14) The power to maintain and modify heretofore existing retirement or pension systems, including such systems heretofore created by general laws of local application by population classification, and to continue in effect or modify other benefits heretofore provided as a part of or in addition to such retirement or pension systems and the power to create and maintain retirement or pension systems for any elected or appointed public officers and employees whose compensation is paid in whole or in part from county or municipal funds and for the beneficiaries of such officers and employees.
- (b) Unless otherwise provided by law,
- (1) No county may exercise any of the powers listed in subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or provide any service listed therein inside the boundaries of any municipality or any other county except by contract with the municipality or county affected; and
 - (2) No municipality may exercise any of the powers listed in subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or provide any service listed therein outside its own boundaries except by contract with the county or municipality affected.
- (c) Nothing contained within this Paragraph shall operate to prohibit the General Assembly from enacting general laws relative to the subject matters listed in subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or to prohibit the General Assembly by general law from regulating, restricting, or limiting the exercise of the powers listed therein; but it may not withdraw any such powers.

**III. House Bill 297
(originally started as
HB 1137) –
Constitutional
Concerns, Voter
Consent,
Transparency, and
Structural Concerns**

House Bill 1137

By: Representatives Silcox of the 53rd, Jasperse of the 11th, Evans of the 57th, Willis of the 55th, Tran of the 80th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965,"
 2 approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243), as amended, so as to extend the sunset for
 3 authority of local governing bodies to collect a 1 percent retail sales and use tax; to provide
 4 for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
 5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965," approved
 9 March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243), as amended, is amended by revising paragraph (1)
 10 of subsection (b) of Section 25 as follows:

11 "(b)(1) Rate of Tax. The tax when levied shall be at the rate of one (1%) percent until
 12 and including June 30, ~~2057~~ 2067, and shall thereafter be reduced to one-half (1/2%) of
 13 one percent. Said tax shall be added to the State Sales and Use Tax imposed by Article
 14 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., and the State Revenue Commissioner is
 15 hereby authorized and directed to establish a bracket system by appropriate rules and
 16 regulations to collect the tax herein imposed in the areas affected."

H. B. 1137

- 1 -

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
19 without such approval.

20 **SECTION 3.**

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

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

“Notice is given that there will be introduced at the regular 2026 session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to amend an Act known as the “Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965,” approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965,p.2243), and for other purposes. MARTA will seek to amend Section 25 of the MARTA Act to extend the expiration date of the lo/otaxreferenced in Section 25 from June 30, 2057 to June 30, 2067 .”

AFFIDAVIT

GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY

I, Deborah Silcox, Representative from District 53, state on oath as follows:

- (1) I am the author of the local bill to which this affidavit is attached.
- (2) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 28-1-14, the notice requirements for the local bill to which this affidavit is attached have been satisfied, including but not limited to the following:
 - (A) The Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation which is attached to such local bill was published in the Clayton Daily News, which is the official organ of Clayton County, on the 7th of January, 2026; and
 - (B) If the local bill amends the charter of a municipality or the enabling Act of the governing authority of a county or consolidated government, then a copy of the Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation was mailed, transmitted by facsimile, or otherwise provided to the governing authority of such municipality, county, or consolidated government:
 - (i) During the calendar week in which the Notice was published in the official organ; or
 - (ii) During the seven days immediately following the date of publication of such Notice.

s/ DEBORAH SILCOX
Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed at the
State Capitol in Atlanta, Georgia,
This 23rd of January, 2026,
Before me:

s/ JENNIFER BURGESS
Jennifer Burgess
Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia
My Commission Expires Janaury 5, 2027
[SEAL]

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO
INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the regular 2026 session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to amend an Act known as the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965, approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p.2243), and for other purposes. MARTA will seek to amend Section 25 of the MARTA Act to extend the expiration date of the 1 % taxreferenced in Section 25 from June 30, 2057 to June 30, 2067.

AFFIDAVIT

GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY

I, Deborah Silcox, Representative from District 53, state on oath as follows:

- (1) I am the author of the local bill to which this affidavit is attached.
- (2) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 28-1-14, the notice requirements for the local bill to which this affidavit is attached have been satisfied, including but not limited to the following:
 - (A) The Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation which is attached to such local bill was published in the Marietta Daily Journal, which is the official organ of Cobb County, on the 9th of January, 2026; and
 - (B) If the local bill amends the charter of a municipality or the enabling Act of the governing authority of a county or consolidated government, then a copy of the Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation was mailed, transmitted by facsimile, or otherwise provided to the governing authority of such municipality, county, or consolidated government:
 - (i) During the calendar week in which the Notice was published in the official organ; or
 - (ii) During the seven days immediately following the date of publication of such Notice.

s/ DEBORAH SILCOX
Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed at the
State Capitol in Atlanta, Georgia,
This 23rd of January, 2026,
Before me:

s/ JENNIFER BURGESS
Jennifer Burgess
Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia
My Commission Expires January 5, 2027
[SEAL]

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO
INTRODUCE LOCAL
LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the regular 2026 session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to amend an Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965," approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p.2243), and for other purposes. MARTA will seek to amend Section 25 of the MARTA Act to ++extend the expiration date of the 1% tax referenced in Section 25 from June 30, 2057 to June 30, 2067++

AFFIDAVIT

GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY

I, Deborah Silcox, Representative from District 53, state on oath as follows:

- (1) I am the author of the local bill to which this affidavit is attached.
- (2) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 28-1-14, the notice requirements for the local bill to which this affidavit is attached have been satisfied, including but not limited to the following:
 - (A) The Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation which is attached to such local bill was published in the Champion Newspaper, which is the official organ of DeKalb County, on the 8th of January, 2026; and
 - (B) If the local bill amends the charter of a municipality or the enabling Act of the governing authority of a county or consolidated government, then a copy of the Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation was mailed, transmitted by facsimile, or otherwise provided to the governing authority of such municipality, county, or consolidated government:
 - (i) During the calendar week in which the Notice was published in the official organ; or
 - (ii) During the seven days immediately following the date of publication of such Notice.

s/ DEBORAH SILCOX
Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed at the
State Capitol in Atlanta, Georgia,
This 23rd of January, 2026,
Before me:

s/ JENNIFER BURGESS
Jennifer Burgess
Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia
My Commission Expires January 5, 2027
[SEAL]

NOTICE OF
INTENTION TO
INTRODUCE
LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the regular 2026 session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to amend an Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965," approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p.2243), and for other purposes. MARTA will seek to amend Section 25 of the MARTA Act to extend the expiration date of the 1 % tax referenced in Section 25 from June 30, 2057 to June 30, 2067.

AFFIDAVIT

GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY

I, Deborah Silcox, Representative from District 53, state on oath as follows:

- (1) I am the author of the local bill to which this affidavit is attached.
- (2) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 28-1-14, the notice requirements for the local bill to which this affidavit is attached have been satisfied, including but not limited to the following:
 - (A) The Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation which is attached to such local bill was published in the South Fulton Neighbor, which is the official organ of Fulton County, on the 14th of January, 2026; and
 - (B) If the local bill amends the charter of a municipality or the enabling Act of the governing authority of a county or consolidated government, then a copy of the Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation was mailed, transmitted by facsimile, or otherwise provided to the governing authority of such municipality, county, or consolidated government:
 - (i) During the calendar week in which the Notice was published in the official organ; or
 - (ii) During the seven days immediately following the date of publication of such Notice.

s/ DEBORAH SILCOX
Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed at the
State Capitol in Atlanta, Georgia,
This 23rd of January, 2026,
Before me:

s/ JENNIFER BURGESS
Jennifer Burgess
Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia
My Commission Expires January 5, 2027
[SEAL]

NOTICE OF
INTENTION TO
INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

?Notice is given that there will be introduced at the regular 2026 session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to amend an Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965" approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243); and for other purposes. MARTA will seek to amend Section 25 of the MARTA Act to extend the expiration date of the 1% tax referenced in Section 25 from June 30, 2057 to June 30, 2067.?

AFFIDAVIT

GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY

I, Deborah Silcox, Representative from District 53, state on oath as follows:

- (1) I am the author of the local bill to which this affidavit is attached.
- (2) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 28-1-14, the notice requirements for the local bill to which this affidavit is attached have been satisfied, including but not limited to the following:
 - (A) The Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation which is attached to such local bill was published in the Gwinnett Daily Post, which is the official organ of Gwinnett County, on the 7th of January, 2026; and
 - (B) If the local bill amends the charter of a municipality or the enabling Act of the governing authority of a county or consolidated government, then a copy of the Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation was mailed, transmitted by facsimile, or otherwise provided to the governing authority of such municipality, county, or consolidated government:
 - (i) During the calendar week in which the Notice was published in the official organ; or
 - (ii) During the seven days immediately following the date of publication of such Notice.

s/ DEBORAH SILCOX
Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed at the
State Capitol in Atlanta, Georgia,
This 23 of January, 2026,
Before me:

s/ JENNIFER BURGESS
Jennifer Burgess
Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia
My Commission Expires January 5, 2027
[SEAL]

725 to provide any type of transit services within any area of this state but shall not include
 726 the Department of Transportation, the ~~Atlanta-region Transit Link 'ATL' Authority,~~
 727 Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority, or the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority.

728 (4) 'Transit facilities' means everything necessary and appropriate for the conveyance
 729 and convenience of passengers who utilize transit services.

730 (5) 'Transit services' means all modes of transportation serving the general public which
 731 are appropriate to transport people and their personal effects by highway or other ground
 732 conveyance but does not include rail conveyance.

733 (b)(1) Any transit agency may, by contract with any local government for any period not
 734 exceeding 50 years, provide transit services or transit facilities for, to, or within that local
 735 government or between that local government and any area in which such transit agency
 736 provides transit services or transit facilities, except that if such services or facilities are
 737 to be funded wholly or partially by fees, assessments, or taxes levied and collected within
 738 a special district created pursuant to Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VI of the
 739 Constitution, such contract may only become effective if a majority of the qualified
 740 voters residing within the special district to be taxed authorize such contract or tax by
 741 referendum in a special election which shall be called and conducted for that purpose by
 742 the election superintendent of such local government.

743 (2)(A) Any services provided in a county outside a nonattainment area by a transit
 744 agency pursuant to a contract authorized by this subsection shall be conditioned upon
 745 such services being included in a plan for transit services adopted or approved by the
 746 governing authority of the county and by the governing authorities of any
 747 municipalities within which transit services are to be provided as provided in the plan.

748 (B) Any services provided by a transit agency in a county within a nonattainment area
 749 pursuant to a contract authorized by this subsection and entered into on or after
 750 January 1, 2019, shall be for services:

751 (i) ~~Approved~~ approved by a local governing authority;

