

Adopted By-Laws

and to perform other duties and responsibilities as may be provided for or authorized from time to time by law and/or the membership.

Whether enumerated here or not, this Commission may undertake, as its budget and personnel capabilities allow, any and all activities provided for in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 50-8-35.

It shall also be the purpose of this organization to provide a forum and mechanism for the joint discussion of multi-jurisdictional problems and opportunities and to assist in affecting joint solutions and programs for the common good.

Section 1.4 Effective July 1, 2009, the territorial service area shall be the limits of Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, and Worth Counties. The territorial areas of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission may be changed from time-o-time by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Board of Directors as promulgated in O.C.G.A. 50-8-32.

ARTICLE II Membership and Dues

Section 2.1 The members of this Center shall be those counties encompassed in boundaries specified by the Department of Community Affairs and approved by the Georgia Legislature.

Section 2.2 Each member municipality and county shall pay dues for membership based on the population within their political boundaries at the rate of one (1) dollar (\$1.00) per capita based upon the most recent estimate of population approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Section 2.3 Population estimates used for calculation of dues shall be adjusted no less than annually at the beginning of the Commission's fiscal year or as authorized by O.C.G.A. § 50-8-33(b)(2).

ARTICLE III Council Composition

Section 3.1 The Council shall be comprised of elected county representatives, elected municipal representatives, and non-public representatives. All members of the Council shall serve without compensation.

Section 3.2 Members of the Council shall include the following:

- a. County Elected Official: Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-8-34(b)(1), the council shall include the chief elected official of each county governing body in the region for a period of time concurrent with each such elected official's term of

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elected office. If the chief elected official for a county is unable to serve on the council, he or she shall appoint another elected county official. In the case of a consolidated government where there is not another municipality located within the boundaries of the county, a second member of such consolidated government shall be appointed to the board;

- b. **Municipal Elected Official:** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-8-34(b)(2), the council shall include one elected official from one municipality in each county in the region for a period of time concurrent with each such elected official's term of elected office; the municipal representative shall be selected in accordance with a procedure established and agreed to by the municipalities within that county.
- c. **Governor's Appointments:** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-8-34(b)(3), the council shall include three residents of the region appointed by the Governor, each for a term of two years. One of such three appointees shall be a member of a school board located within the region or a superintendent of schools within the region, and two of such three appointees shall be nonpublic council members.
- d. **Lieutenant Governor's Appointee:** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-8-34(b)(4), the council shall include one nonpublic council member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor for a term of two years.
- e. **Speaker of the House's Appointee:** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-8-34(b)(4), the council shall include one nonpublic council member appointed by the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives for a term of two years.
- f. **Private Sector Representative:** Each county shall have one (1) private sector Council member who shall reside within the limits of the county in which he/she represents. Each Private Sector appointee shall be selected in a manner agreed upon by the all the local governments in a County; aforementioned procedure shall be established with the approval of a majority of the local governments of the County, with the assistance of the Commission Executive Director, and shall serve for a term of one year, or until his/her successor is duly appointed.

Section 3.3 *Appointment of Additional Council Members:*

- a. Member counties with population of 50,000 residents or more, according to the latest census, would be entitled, but not required, to appoint two (2) additional council members. These additional members shall be non-public individuals.

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- b. Member counties with population exceeding 25,000 residents, with fewer than 49,999 residents, according to the latest census would be entitled, but not required, to appoint one (1) additional council member. This additional member shall be a non-public individual.
- c. In selecting the additional council members as provided in (a) and (b) above, the county government and the municipal government(s) of the affected member counties should concur on the appointments allocated.
- d. Council members shall be residents of the county they represent and shall promptly notify the Center and the Appointing Authority of the member of a change in status which will preclude a member from serving on the Council.

Section 3.4 The appointing authority shall be notified within five days by the Executive Director when a member misses three meetings in succession or at such time a member resigns, or is unable to serve. Appointing authorities should appoint a successor within 30 days of receipt of notification, and said successor shall be seated at the next regular or called session of the Council.

Section 3.5 The term of a member shall terminate immediately upon (O.C.G.A. § 50-8-34(c)):

- a. Resignation by a member;
- b. Death of a member or inability to serve as a member due to medical infirmity or other incapacity; or
- c. Any change in local elective office or residence of a member which would cause the composition of the council not to comply with the requirements of subsection (b) of this Code section.
- d. When a member is determined to be in violation of the ethics provisions of these bylaws under Section

Section 3.6 Appointment of members shall be solicited by the Executive Director of the Center annually beginning in November.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 4.1 The Council shall elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and a Treasurer from among the members of the Council duly appointed prior to the January meeting. At the November/December (November) meeting of the Council, the Chairperson shall name a