

**GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT (GIRMA)
FIRST RESPONDER PTSD APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

Employers eligible to participate in GIRMA (hereinafter a “Participating Employer” or “Employer”) shall complete this Application and Participation Agreement in order to purchase First Responder PTSD coverage fully insured by MetLife under the GIRMA Fund C Master Policy for a Lump Sum PTSD Diagnosis Benefit, a PTSD Disability (Income Replacement) Benefit, or a Combined Lump Sum PTSD Diagnosis Benefit and PTSD Disability (Income Replacement) Benefit. Once approved by GIRMA’s Program Administrator, the Participating Employer will receive a one-page Summary of Benefits identifying the purchased coverage(s) (the “First Responder PTSD Policy”) and a link to the Policy Certificate for the purchased coverage(s), so it may make these available to individuals performing service for them as an employed or volunteer “First Responder” as defined below (“First Responders”).

Who Does What?

- GIRMA is the Policyholder of a First Responder PTSD Policy insured by MetLife, which provides a Lump Sum Benefit and a Disability (Income Replacement) Benefit. These coverages together are designed to meet the requirements of the Ashley Wilson Act (the “Act”), effective January 1, 2025.
- Georgia Municipal Association, Inc., (“GMA”) is the Program Administrator for GIRMA. GMA uses information from the First Responder census data provided by the Participating Employer to bill for the premiums due under the First Responder PTSD Policy and maintains (either directly or through the broker for the First Responder PTSD Policy) Participating Employers’ Application and Participation Agreements.
- Participating Employers are responsible for providing census data to GMA’s broker that identifies all First Responders (as defined below) performing first responder services for them, classifying the First Responders by statutory definition and as employed or volunteer, and identifying those First Responders who are First Responders for another Public Entity.
- Participating Employers are responsible for submitting complete and accurate census data and paying premiums to GMA, communicating with First Responders about the coverages the Employer provides, providing the Summary of Benefits and link to the applicable Certificate to First Responders, and providing all requested information and documentation requested by GMA’s broker to ensure the census is current.
- Participating Employers are responsible for designating an authorized member of human resources staff to receive inquiries from MetLife related to work requirements or work status for disability claims and provide all information requested by MetLife for that purpose.
- To comply with the confidentiality provisions of the Act, GMA and its broker will not inform Participating Employers whether a First Responder has submitted a claim for benefits or received any such benefits.
- Participating Employers are responsible for ensuring that any information in their possession related to claims, and any other information that would reasonably identify an individual as having been diagnosed with PTSD, is used only in accordance with applicable laws and is kept confidential in the same way as mental health information related to an employer sponsored major medical plan or employee assistance program.
- Participating Employers are prohibited by law from taking any employment action solely as a result of a First Responder’s diagnosis, claims, or benefits.
- MetLife evaluates claims and pays approved claims under the First Responder PTSD Policy. All claims for benefits must be submitted to MetLife.
- First Responders do not need to inform the Participating Employer that they are making a claim.
- Neither GIRMA nor GMA have any role in claim determination or payment.

Definition of First Responder. A First Responder for the Participating Employer is an individual who meets one or more of the following definitions as a result of services he or she performs for the Participating Employer as an employee or volunteer:

- (A) 'Communications officer' as defined in Code Section 37-12-1;
- (B) 'Correctional officer' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8;
- (C) 'Emergency medical professional' as defined in Code Section 16-10-24.2;
- (D) 'Emergency medical technician' as defined in Code Section 16-10-24.2;
- (E) 'Firefighter' as defined in Code Section 25-4-2;
- (F) 'Highway emergency response operator' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8;
- (G) 'Jail officer' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8;
- (H) 'Juvenile correctional officer' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8;
- (I) 'Peace officer' as defined in Code Section 35-8-2;
- (J) 'Probation officer' as defined in Code Section 45-1-8; and
- (K) Law enforcement officer with the Department of Natural Resources.

Employer Obligations:

- Employer shall not require any kind of contribution from First Responders for the coverage(s) provided under the First Responder PTSD Policy.
- Employer is solely responsible for identifying all First Responders (as defined above). Any questions about First Responder status should be resolved by contacting legal counsel. Participating Employers that are members of GIRMA's Property and Liability Fund may call the GIRMA HelpLine at 800-721-1998 for free legal advice about whether an individual meets the statutory definition.
- Employer is solely responsible for keeping an accurate list of all First Responders, and providing correct and complete information to GMA's broker.
- Employer shall submit initial First Responder census data to the GMA broker in the form requested, and must update this census data as requested in order to ensure that all First Responders are properly identified and classified.
- The Employer's cost for coverage under the First Responder PTSD Policy will be based on the most recent census data at the time of billing.
- Employer shall provide the Summary of Benefits and a link to the applicable Certificate to all First Responders at no charge, and shall provide a copy of the applicable Policy to First Responders upon request.
- If the Policy is terminated for any reason, Employer shall provide notification of termination to all First Responders.
- Whenever requested to do so by MetLife or GMA, Employer shall provide MetLife or GMA the information requested.

Benefits Exempt from Income Tax:

- MetLife has determined that benefits it will pay under the policy are not subject to state or federal income taxation. Accordingly, MetLife will not report benefits to the IRS or withhold any amounts from benefit payments.
- MetLife will advise benefit recipients that benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax, so MetLife will not withhold taxes or provide a 1099 or W-2 or report benefit payments to the IRS. MetLife will remind benefit recipients that the benefits may offset other benefits received by the recipient or have other tax consequences and encourage them to consult their tax advisor for guidance.
- MetLife will provide a summary of benefits to the benefits recipient upon request.
- Legal counsel to GIRMA has advised GIRMA of the following:

- The Ashley Wilson Act provides that benefits payable pursuant to the Ashley Wilson Act are not subject to Georgia income tax.
- Benefits payable under the policy to First Responders (as defined in the statute) are not subject to federal income tax because the Ashley Wilson Act is a statute in the nature of a workers' compensation act under Treas. Reg. Section 1.104-1(b) and the MetLife policy bases benefits solely on diagnosis of work-related injuries or sickness as described in the Act.
- Participating Employers have no tax obligations arising from payment of benefits to their First Responders.
- A copy of the opinion letter is available upon request.

Information Privacy and Security:

- See the attached PTSD Privacy Notice, which will be posted on the website where policy information is published. This Notice explains the privacy requirements of the Ashley Wilson Act and how individually identifiable information is used and shared.
- As a critical illness and disability policy, the PTSD Program is not subject to the federal information privacy and security law that applies to group health plans (HIPAA). However, GMA, the GMA broker, and MetLife protect individually identifiable information and use and share it only in accordance with the privacy provisions of the Ashley Wilson Act and any other applicable privacy laws.
- Participating Employers will provide census data to GMA's broker using a secure portal established by the broker.

Desired Coverage (See Attached Proposal for Estimated Annual Premiums):

Participating Employer is applying for and agreeing to purchase the First Responder PTSD Combined Lump Sum Diagnosis Benefit and PTSD Disability (Income Replacement) Benefit unless the following option is checked.

_____ First Responder Lump Sum PTSD Diagnosis Benefit Only* (*Alone, this coverage does NOT meet the requirements of the Ashley Wilson Act. Leave BLANK if you want the full coverage.*)

The coverage elected above automatically renews at each anniversary of the effective date, based on then current premiums established by the Program Administrator. Coverage may be terminated in accordance with the GIRMA Bylaws regarding termination of membership in a GIRMA Fund.

**On behalf of _____ [Name of Participating Employer], _____
County, Georgia, I submit this Application and Participation Agreement and agree to its terms.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Title: _____

Privacy Notice for Georgia First Responders PTSD Program

This Privacy Notice describes the individually identifiable information about First Responders that Program Administrators of the Georgia First Responders PTSD Program collect and how it is used and shared.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS: Certain employees of Georgia Municipal Association (“GMA”) and Association County Commissioners of Georgia (“ACCG”) provide administrative services for the PTSD Program. The Southeastern Series of Lockton Companies, Inc. serves as broker for the MetLife insurance policy that is offered through the PTSD Program. GMA, ACCG, and Lockton are all Program Administrators of the PTSD Program.

PRIVACY OBLIGATIONS UNDER ASHLEY WILSON ACT: The Ashley Wilson Act contains privacy requirements for information that “could reasonably be used to identify individuals making claims or who have made claims or who have received benefits.” These privacy requirements were included because federal privacy law (HIPAA) does not apply to the Program. Program Administrators and MetLife treat this information as “sensitive mental health information” and only use and share the information to operate the Program, prepare aggregated reports, comply with the law, or as authorized by the First Responder.

Communications between First Responders (or their representatives) and Program Administrators or MetLife are confidential and privileged.

The Act ensures that First Responders can get the lump sum benefit in a confidential manner similar to receiving mental health benefits under a group health plan (subject to HIPAA) or under an employee assistance program, and limits interactions with the employer for disability benefits to those allowed for other mental health disability benefits.

- First Responders submit their claims for benefits directly to MetLife and do not need to inform the Employer.
- MetLife will not inform Program Administrators of claims or benefits without the First Responder’s express authorization.
- MetLife and Program Administrators will never tell Employers whether a First Responder has made a claim for or received a lump sum benefit (without express authorization).
- For the disability benefit, MetLife will only communicate with a human resources contact at the Employer about work requirements and work status, which will indicate that the First Responder has submitted a claim for disability benefits.
- Due to the nature of the Program, MetLife does not need to and will not provide any reports of benefits to the IRS or the Employer.
- If an Employer learns of a claim or benefits from the First Responder or otherwise,

the Employer is prohibited by law from taking any employment action solely as a result of a First Responder's diagnosis, claims, or benefits.

- Employers are required to treat any information they may learn about claims or benefits confidentially as they would treat mental health information associated with a group health plan or employee assistance program.
- Employers are required to designate an employee who is authorized to securely submit eligibility information about First Responders to the Program Administrators' eligibility portal. This information identifies which employees and volunteers meet the definition of First Responder and does not contain any information about claims or benefits.

PROTECTED INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION MAINTAINED BY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS; USE AND SHARING

Eligibility Data: A designated representative of each Employer that offers the Program securely submits the following information to the eligibility portal twice a year: **first and last name, social security number, date of birth, type of First Responder (by statutory definition), and employed or volunteer status.** This information is used to ensure proper billing of premiums and is securely shared with MetLife to enable MetLife to validate identity and determine eligibility for benefits when First Responders submit claims. To comply with the Act's privacy requirements, MetLife will NOT check with the Employer to determine eligibility when a claim is made.

Information Provided by First Responder: If a First Responder contacts a Program Administrator with questions about the Program, the Program Administrator may collect individually identifiable information necessary to answer the questions or direct the First Responder to the right resource and otherwise communicate with the First Responder. This information may include name, phone number, email, employer, employment status, and other information shared by the First Responder. This information is used to answer the questions and may be shared with other Program Administrators or MetLife as appropriate for answering the question and for customer service purposes.

Information About First Responder Claims or Receipt of Benefits: Program Administrators do not have access to information about whether a First Responder has submitted a claim for benefits or has received benefits unless the First Responder shares that information with the Program Administrator(s). MetLife is prohibited from sharing individually identifiable information about claims and benefits with the Program Administrators without an express written authorization from the First Responder. However, Program Administrators may learn about claims or benefits from a First Responder or someone acting on behalf of the First Responder. Program Administrators may share this information with other Program Administrators and MetLife as they deem appropriate for the operation of the Program.

Reports that Do Not Include Direct Identifiers: Program Administrators may request reports from MetLife that show use of benefits for purposes of evaluating the Program. These reports will not contain names or other direct identifiers. However, the reports may contain information (such as type of First Responder and geographic location of employer) that could be used with other information to identify individuals. These reports will be used as the Program Administrators deem appropriate for the operation of the Program and may be shared among the Program Administrators and with MetLife. Reports that could reasonably be used to identify an individual shall not be shared except as required by law.

PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

The Program Administrators and MetLife have privacy and information security policies and procedures and safeguards designed to ensure that individually identifiable information is protected from unauthorized access, misuse, and destruction. These controls are designed to meet a variety of applicable laws. For more information about MetLife's privacy practices, refer to the MetLife Privacy Notice posted on GFRPTSDInsurance.com.

**A RESOLUTION TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (GIRMA) AND
PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF GIRMA'S FUNDS**

WHEREAS, Article 9, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of Georgia authorizes municipalities and other political subdivisions to contract with each other for activities which the contracting parties are authorized by law to undertake; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated authorizes certain public entities to execute intergovernmental contracts to become members of an interlocal risk management agency for the purpose of sharing their accident, disability, supplemental medical, general liability, motor vehicle and property damage risks in whole or in part; and

WHEREAS, municipalities within Georgia have found it increasingly difficult to obtain commercial insurance protection, and have found the costs of such protection often exceeds the ability of a public entity to pay; and

WHEREAS, public entities in Georgia need a stable method for managing their risks to avoid the unpredictable and cyclical nature of the commercial insurance market; and

WHEREAS, many Georgia public entities do not have sufficient resources to self-insure their risks on an individual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Public Entity of _____ (“Public Entity”), located in _____ County, Georgia, desires to become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (“GIRMA”), an interlocal risk management agency formed pursuant to Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; and

WHEREAS, the intergovernmental contract requires all members of GIRMA to participate in at least one GIRMA Fund; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Public Entity has reviewed the intergovernmental contract, the Fund Election Form, and the bylaws of GIRMA and finds that the goals of GIRMA and the obligations imposed on Public Entity by membership in GIRMA and the Fund or Funds selected on the Fund Election Form are in accordance with the philosophy and public policy objectives of this community; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Public Entity finds that it is in the best interest of its residents to become a member of GIRMA and to join the Fund or Funds selected on the Fund Election Form;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of Public Entity:

1. The [Insert title of Chief Officer] of Public Entity is authorized to execute the intergovernmental contract required for Public Entity to become a Member of GIRMA and the GIRMA Fund(s) marked in the Election Form. A copy of the intergovernmental contract and bylaws of GIRMA and the completed Fund Election Form are attached and made part of this resolution as Appendix 1.
2. The powers of GIRMA shall be limited to those contained in the documents attached as Appendix 1, as amended from time to time, and those contained in Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and the rules and regulations of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Georgia.

3. The commencement of operations and the continuing operations of GIRMA and the obligation of Public Entity to fully participate in such operations shall be effectuated in accordance with the intergovernmental contract and bylaws and the Fund Election Form.
4. The [Insert title of Chief Officer] of Public Entity is designated as Public Entity's representative to GIRMA, and is authorized to complete and execute any additional documents required for membership in GIRMA or the selected Fund or Funds.
5. Public Entity may change its representative by making a written request to Georgia Municipal Association, Inc., the Program Administrator for GIRMA.
6. This resolution shall be effective on the date of adoption.

Adopted this ____ day of 20__.

(Name of Public Entity)

By: _____,

[Print Name of Person Authorized to Sign Resolutions, Title]

Attest: _____,

[Print Name of Person Authorized to Attest, Title]

Appendix 1

Resolution to Become a Member of The Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) and Participate in One or More of GIRMA'S Funds

Intergovernmental Contract

GIRMA Fund Participation Election Form (Completed)

GIRMA Bylaws

WHEREAS, an intergovernmental contract originally was approved for use on June 10, 1987 by certain municipalities acting through a Board of Trustees of their own selection, and, in accordance with the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (“O.C.G.A.”) Section 36-85-2, these municipalities formed and became members of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (“GIRMA”) by executing the intergovernmental contract, and

WHEREAS, GIRMA is an unincorporated nonprofit instrumentality wholly owned by its members, all of which are public entities, and after approval by GIRMA’s Administrator, all additional members of GIRMA became members by executing the intergovernmental contract and adopting a resolution or ordinance;

WHEREAS, the form of this Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Contract has been approved in accordance with the bylaws, and all Members not expressing intent to withdraw within 30 days after the date of notice of the approval are parties to this Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Contract, and the intergovernmental contract previously executed by the Member is superseded by this Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Contract;

WHEREAS, this Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Contract is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 20____, by and among the public entities who are now Members of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (“GIRMA”) and the _____ [Name of Prospective Member Entity] (“New Member”) for the purpose of permitting New Member to participate in one or more group self-insurance funds for the management of liability and property damage risks of the Member public entities.

WHEREAS, New Member desires to become a Member of GIRMA in accordance with the Statute and the rules and regulations of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Georgia:

NOW, THEREFORE IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual covenants, promises and obligations contained herein, which were given to and accepted by each public entity becoming a party to this agreement the parties agree as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1

PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS OF THE GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Section 1.1. Purpose of Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency and Intergovernmental Contract. The purpose of GIRMA and of this agreement is to jointly exercise powers common to each participating public entity; to establish and administer one or more group self-insurance funds; to establish and administer a risk management service; to prevent or lessen the incidence and severity of casualty and property losses occurring in the operation of a Member of GIRMA; and to defend and protect, in accordance with this contract and related coverage descriptions, any Member of GIRMA against liability or loss as stated in such documents. The activities of GIRMA shall not constitute conduct of an insurance business.

Section 1.2. Operations and Eligibility for Membership. The Board of Trustees described in Paragraph 3 of this agreement shall direct the affairs of GIRMA. The Georgia Municipal Association shall be appointed as Administrator. The Administrator may recommend to the Board of Trustees the appointment of necessary Service Companies, attorneys and agents for operation of GIRMA. In order to become a member of GIRMA, an entity must be a “municipality”, as defined in Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as amended from time to time, and must be a political subdivision of a state or an entity the income of which is excluded from gross income under the Internal Revenue Code. Any entity that meets these criteria may become a member once it has taken all actions required by applicable law to join GIRMA and has been approved by GIRMA through its Administrator.

**PARAGRAPH 2
DEFINITIONS**

Section 2.1. Definitions. In the interpretation of this agreement the following definitions shall apply unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Administrator" shall mean the person or agency designated to supervise the administration of GIRMA and to perform such duties and exercise such powers as shall be specifically designated by the Board.
- (2) "GIRMA" shall mean the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency.
- (3) "Board" shall mean the Board of Trustees of GIRMA.
- (4) "Coverage Description or Description" shall mean the written explication of General Liability, Motor Vehicle Liability, Property Damage and other claims for which Members are jointly self-insured through a Fund or Funds.
- (5) "Group Self-Insurance Fund," "Fund" or "Funds" shall have the meaning as defined in Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as amended.
- (6) "Member" shall mean an entity that meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 1.2, has been approved by GIRMA through its Administrator, and is participating in GIRMA in conformity with this contract.
- (7) "Service Company" shall mean persons or agencies designated by the Board or Administrator to perform claim settlement services, make a determination of risk factors of Members and applicants for membership, institute loss prevention programs and accounting systems, acquire necessary excess insurance and reinsurance proposals, or perform other functions in the day-to-day operation of GIRMA as directed by the Board or Administrator.

**PARAGRAPH 3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Section 3.1. Trustee Qualifications. The qualifications to serve as a Trustee and the terms of office for Trustees shall be specified in the bylaws of GIRMA.

Section 3.2. Selection of Board Members. The Board of GIRMA shall be those persons selected in accordance with the bylaws of GIRMA.

Section 3.3. Meetings. All meetings of the Board shall be held and conducted in accordance with the bylaws adopted by the Board.

Section 3.4. Liability of Trustees and Officers. Trustees and officers of GIRMA shall use ordinary care and reasonable diligence in the exercise of their powers and the performance of their duties. They shall not be liable for mistakes of judgement or actions or failures to act when such mistakes, actions or failures are made in good faith and within the scope of their authority for GIRMA. Nor shall they be liable for any action or failure to act of any agent, employee or independent contractor of GIRMA, nor for loss incurred through investment of funds or failure to invest. No trustee or officer shall be liable for any action or failure to act of any other trustee or officer. No trustee or officer shall be required to give a bond or other security to guarantee the faithful performance of the duties hereunder except as may be required by the rules and regulations of the Insurance Commissioner. GIRMA shall defend and hold harmless any trustee or officer, and the Board of Trustees, against any and all loss, cost, damage or exposure arising from their actions or failures to act when such actions or failures are made in good faith and within the scope of their authority for GIRMA. GIRMA may purchase insurance providing such coverage for trustees and officers.

**PARAGRAPH 4
BOARD POWERS AND DUTIES**

Section 4.1. Board Powers and Duties. The Board, in addition to other powers and duties conferred or imposed by law, is authorized in the name of GIRMA to exercise the powers enumerated in Article III, Section I and in Article IV, Section 2 of the bylaws and to do all the acts necessary or incidental in performing and accomplishing the purposes set forth in this agreement and in the bylaws of GIRMA.

**PARAGRAPH 5
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 5.1. Membership. The membership of GIRMA consists of those eligible public entities who have executed this agreement, or its counterpart, by the duly constituted chief executive or administrative officers acting upon the resolution of the governing authority of the public entity and which have paid the prescribed contributions pursuant to the provisions of this agreement. Such entities may be admitted as Members upon approval of the Administrator in accordance with policies established by the Board, upon their execution of this agreement, or its counterpart, and by payment of prescribed contributions. Every Member agrees to the admission of additional Members in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.

Section 5.2. Member Representatives. The chief executive or administrative officer of each Member shall designate in writing a representative to GIRMA and notify the Administrator of such designation. The representative shall be responsible to the Member for receiving all communications related to GIRMA, implementing loss control measures and executing the duties imposed on the Members by this agreement and the bylaws of GIRMA. All communications from the Administrator or any Service Company to the Member shall be addressed to the individual listed in the Administrator's records as the Member's designated representative. Each Member shall notify the Administrator immediately if a replacement representative is named.

Section 5.3. Withdrawal.

- (1) Each Member shall continue its membership until the completion of the second full fiscal year of GIRMA following its admission to GIRMA. Effective upon the conclusion of such period, a Member may withdraw on ninety (90) days advance written notice to GIRMA. A Member withdrawing shall have no right to the reserves on any claims maintained by GIRMA in the operation of a Group Self-Insurance Fund. GIRMA shall continue servicing of any covered claim of the Member after the withdrawal of the Member.
- (2) At the conclusion of a Member's second full fiscal year of membership, all membership shall be on a coverage year-to-coverage year basis. Effective at the end of any coverage year, GIRMA may, on ninety (90) days advance written notice to a Member, determine not to renew a Member's membership in GIRMA or the Member's participation in the Fund.
- (3) Any Member, failing to make payments required by Paragraph 6 of this agreement when due, shall upon proper notice be immediately suspended from membership and the Member's coverage under any Fund and benefits hereunder shall immediately cease. If the Member shall subsequently submit the delinquent payment along with such penalties or interest that may be established by the board, the Administrator may reinstitute such membership in accordance with Board policy.
- (4) Terminated Members shall remain liable for assessments for any fiscal year in which they were Members. Terminated Members shall have no rights to surplus or dividends, but the Board may return all or a portion of any terminated Member's capital contribution.

Section 5.4. Membership Review and Termination. A Member may be involuntarily terminated for causes other than non-payment of contributions as provided in the bylaws.

**PARAGRAPH 6
OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS**

Section 6.1. Member Obligations. Members of GIRMA agree to be obligated as follows:

- (1) To participate at all times in at least one Fund established by the Board.
- (2) To pay all contributions, assessments or other sums due to GIRMA at such times and in such amounts as shall be established by the Board or the Administrator.
- (3) To select a person to serve as a Member representative.
- (4) To allow the Board and its agents reasonable access to all facilities of the Member and all records, including but not limited to financial records, which relate to the purposes of GIRMA.
- (5) To allow attorneys appointed by GIRMA to represent the Member and its employees or officers in investigation, settlement discussions and all levels of litigation arising out of any claim made against a Member within the scope of loss protection furnished by the Fund or Funds established by GIRMA, and, with approval of the Administrator or in accordance with policies established by the Administrator, to enter into settlements of such litigation without the consent of the Member or its employees or officers.
- (6) To assist and cooperate in the defense and settlement of claims against the Member and its employees or officers.
- (7) To furnish full cooperation to GIRMA's attorneys, claims adjusters, Service Company and any agent employee, officer or independent contractor of GIRMA relating to the purposes of GIRMA.
- (8) To follow all loss reduction and prevention procedures established by GIRMA.
- (9) To furnish to the Administrator such budget operating and underwriting information as may be requested by the Administrator.
- (10) To report as promptly as possible, and in accordance with any Coverage Descriptions issued, all incidents which could result in GIRMA or any Fund established by GIRMA being required to pay claim for loss or injuries to the Member's property or injuries to persons or property when such loss or injury is within the scope of the protection of a Fund or Funds in which the Member participates.

Section 6.2. Optional Defense of Fund Member. A Member may hire co-defense counsel, at the Member's expense, to assist in the defense of claims; provided, however, the attorney selected by GIRMA to defend the claim shall be lead counsel in all matters.

Section 6.3. Contractual Obligation. This agreement shall constitute a contract among the Members of GIRMA. The obligations and responsibilities of the Members set forth herein include the obligation to take no action inconsistent with this agreement as originally written or validly amended, which shall remain a continuing obligation and responsibility of the Member. This agreement may be executed in duplicate originals and the agreement of a public entity thereto shall be evidenced by a signed copy of a resolution adopted by its legislative body authorizing an appropriate official of the public entity to execute the agreement on behalf of the public entity. The contracting parties have created a risk management agency for group self-insurance purposes only within the scope of this agreement, GIRMA's bylaws and related Coverage Descriptions. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to create any relationship of surety, indemnification or responsibility between an individual Member for the debts or claims against any other individual Member. In accordance with Sections 36-85-9 and 36-85-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, each Member shall be jointly and severally liable for all legal obligations of a Fund and assessments may be required to meet any financial obligation of GIRMA or of any Fund.

**PARAGRAPH 7
AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACT**

Section 7.1. Amendments. This agreement may be amended by consent of the Members. A change or modification to this agreement may be agreed to by a vote of Members under such rules and procedures as the Board shall prescribe. Such vote may be conducted at a meeting of Members or may be conducted by mail. Any change or modification agreed to by a majority of the voting Members shall become effective immediately or at such future time as the amendment shall provide. Any Member not exercising its right of withdrawal within thirty (30) days after notice of the change or amendment shall be deemed to have consented to such a change or amendment. Any Member not consenting to such change or amendment may, at its option, withdraw with 90 days written notice and shall be entitled to a refund of any non-earned premiums.

**PARAGRAPH 8
AUDITS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Section 8.1. Annual Report. The Board shall provide to the Members an annual report of the financial affairs of GIRMA and of each Fund maintained by GIRMA.

**PARAGRAPH 9
OPERATION OF GROUP SELF-INSURANCE FUNDS**

Section 9.1. Loss Protection. GIRMA will provide loss protection to each Member participating in a Fund as provided in the Coverage Description for the Fund.

Section 9.2. Coverage Descriptions. The Board or its designee may develop and issue such self-insurance Coverage Descriptions for Funds as it deems necessary or advisable. The limits of loss protection, scope of loss protection, amount of loss retention and Member contributions into a Fund shall be determined by the Coverage Description for the Fund. The Board may amend the Coverage Description or Descriptions from time to time as deems advisable. Such amended Coverage Descriptions shall be effective for GIRMA's subsequent coverage years.

[To be completed by "New Members" joining after September 1, 2016]

This foregoing Intergovernmental Contract is entered into on behalf of _____ (Name of New Member), this day of _____, 20____, by the duly authorized officer whose signature appears below.

(Name of New Member)

(Authorized Signature/title)

Witness/title

Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (“GIRMA”)

Fund Participation Election Form for Prospective Members - For Use On and After January 1, 2025

As stated in Section 6.1 of the Intergovernmental Contract, a GIRMA member must participate in at least one Fund established by the GIRMA Board of Trustees. The Intergovernmental Contract and GIRMA Bylaws apply to all GIRMA members, regardless of the Fund or Funds in which they participate. Terms and conditions specific to a Fund are set forth in the Coverage Description for the Fund.

A coverage description for each GIRMA Fund is on file with the Georgia Department of Insurance and is provided to new Fund members after approval of membership in the Fund. A copy of the coverage descriptions are available to prospective members upon request.

All Prospective Members joining GIRMA on or after January 1, 2025 must complete this Fund Participation Election Form.

Please select the Fund or Funds in which the Prospective GIRMA Member named below will participate. This completed Form will be attached to the Resolution to Become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) and Participate in One or More of GIRMA’s Funds. If Fund B is selected, the Prospective Member also must complete the attached **FIREFIGHTER CANCER COVERAGE APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**. If Fund C is selected, the Prospective Member also must complete the attached **FIRST RESPONDER PTSD APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**.

<p>Fund A</p> <p>Coverage of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property liability • Automobile physical damage and liability • Law enforcement liability • General liability • Public official liability • Employee benefits liability • Fidelity (including crime and all bonds) liability • Data and network security liability 	<p>Fund B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighter Cancer lump sum and disability coverage required by GA House Bill 146, 2016-2017 Regular Session • Coverage is fully insured by Hartford Insurance <p>Fund C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Responder occupational PTSD lump sum and disability coverage required by GA House Bill 451 (the Ashley Wilson Act.) • Coverage is fully insured by MetLife
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The [Name of Prospective Member Entity] _____ elects to join

_____ Fund A _____ Fund B (**FIREFIGHTER CANCER COVERAGE APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT** required) Fund C (**FIRST RESPONDER PTSD APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT** required). Membership in the Fund or Funds selected shall be effective on the date of approval by Georgia Municipal Association, Inc., the Program Administrator for GIRMA.

By: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Print Name of Authorized Signer: _____

**BYLAWS OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Revised and Adopted June 23, 2023

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**BYLAWS OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

ARTICLE I

NAME AND LOCATION

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency, (“GIRMA”). In October 1988, GIRMA was established by an intergovernmental contract among founding municipal corporations of Georgia for the management of liability and property damage risks, in accordance with Title 36, Chapter 85 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (the “Statute”).
- Section 2. The principal office of GIRMA is located at 201 Pryor Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.
- Section 3. Other offices for the transaction of business may be established as the GIRMA Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) may determine.
- Section 4. These Bylaws are adopted pursuant to the Statute, the applicable rules and regulations of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Georgia (the “Commissioner”) and the intergovernmental contract creating GIRMA (the “Intergovernmental Contract”).

ARTICLE II

ELIGIBILITY FOR AND RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Eligibility. To become a member of GIRMA, an entity must be a municipality as defined in Section 36-85-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as amended from time to time, and must be a political subdivision of a state or an entity the income of which is excluded from gross income under the Internal Revenue Code. An entity that meets these criteria may become a member once it has taken all actions required by applicable law to join GIRMA and has been approved by GIRMA through its Administrator. Approved entities are called “Members” in these Bylaws. All Members agree to the terms of the Intergovernmental Contract.
- Section 2. Members may voluntarily withdraw after completion of two full fiscal

years of Membership by providing ninety (90) days advance written notice to the Administrator.

Section 3. After the first two full fiscal years of Membership, Membership will continue unless either the Administrator or the Member provides the other with ninety (90) days advance written notice of its decision to withdraw or not to renew the contract.

Section 4. See Article X for Involuntary Termination of a Membership mid-year.

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. General Powers. The affairs of GIRMA shall be governed by the Board of Trustees ("Board"), which shall have such general powers as are conferred by Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The Board shall have discretionary authority to adopt rules and regulations and to establish policies and procedures for the operation of GIRMA and to make and enter into contracts for such services as it deems necessary or expedient, to include contracts with the Georgia Municipal Association, Inc. ("GMA") providing for payment of reasonable institutional value fees.

Section 2. Number and Qualifications. The business and property of GIRMA shall be supervised by the Board, which shall consist of all of those individuals serving on the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System ("GMEBS") established pursuant to Chapter 5 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, provided that all such individuals shall be employees of or elected or appointed officers of a municipal corporation that is a Member of GIRMA. In addition to the foregoing qualifications, all Trustees initially elected or appointed on or after January 1, 2021, shall be employees of or elected or appointed officers of a municipal corporation that participates in the GIRMA Property and Liability Insurance Fund. Every new Trustee must submit a completed application to the Commissioner to serve as Trustee of this Board. If the Commissioner objects to the election or appointment, the election or appointment to the Board will be invalidated on a prospective basis.

Section 3. Nomination, Election and Appointment of Trustees. Trustees shall be nominated, elected, and appointed in accordance with the GMEBS Bylaws.

Section 4. Compensation. Trustees shall not receive any salaries for their services, but the Board may adopt a travel policy setting forth a per diem allowance or the actual expenses of attendance, if any, for attendance at regular or special meetings of the Board and attendance at Board training and educational events, including, but not limited to, those involving investment managers or other service providers.

ARTICLE IV

POWERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. Administrator. Pursuant to a contract with the Board, GMA shall serve as Administrator and provide the services necessary to safeguard the assets of GIRMA and administer GIRMA. Such services shall include serving as attorney-in-fact and performing directly or contracting with outside entities to perform other types of administration for GIRMA, including claims administration, safety engineering and general administration. The Administrator's services shall include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Negotiating and managing contracts with outside agencies and consultants providing services directly to GIRMA;
- (b) Establishing and maintaining administrative and financial procedures for internal and external use consistent with the policies of the Board of Trustees;
- (c) In conjunction with the actuary appointed by the Board, establishing contribution rate methodologies for System Funds;
- (d) Billing for contributions and assessments in accordance with the terms of the Intergovernmental Contract, and in accordance with applicable law and the Board's funding policy;
- (e) Receiving, depositing, disbursing and accounting for all assets received and expended on behalf of GIRMA, and ensuring that all premiums or contributions received are timely remitted to the depository bank or banks;
- (f) Establishing the method for rating the risks of individual Members;
- (g) Providing risk management services including defense and settlement of claims;
- (h) Receiving applications for membership from prospective new members to GIRMA and approving or denying such applications for membership in accordance with such rules or policies as are promulgated by the Board;
- (i) Keeping a register of the post office address, electronic mail address and/or facsimile number of the designated contact for each Member;

- (j) Fulfilling any obligations set forth in contractual documents with the Members as obligations of the Administrator;
- (k) In conjunction with the investment manager and the custodian appointed by the Board, assuring that provisions are made for the valuation of assets;
- (l) In conjunction with the investment consultant appointed by the Board and the custodian appointed by the Board, assuring that funds are invested and reinvested in accordance with Board policy and direction;
- (m) Preparing or causing to be prepared annual fiscal reports regarding the operation of GIRMA and all other reports as directed in writing or through official action by the Board;
- (n) Determining and prorating income from GMEBS investments to the appropriate GIRMA Fund;
- (o) Arranging for the payment of claims due under GIRMA;
- (p) Providing information about GIRMA and offering technical support to the designated contact of the Member as appropriate;
- (q) Providing the Commissioner a copy of the contract with the Administrator and any amendments to the contract to the extent required by law;
- (r) Maintaining a fidelity bond and errors and omissions coverage or other appropriate liability insurance as required by applicable law and Commissioner regulations, and filing evidence of such coverage with the Commissioner to the extent required by law;
- (s) Receiving, reviewing and processing all correspondence submitted to GIRMA;
- (t) Assuring that all GIRMA files and records are maintained and available at all times to the Board;
- (u) Preparing and submitting all documents required to be filed with the Commissioner in accordance with applicable regulations;
- (v) Supporting legal compliance of GIRMA, and where appropriate, notifying the Board of actions taken or recommended in order to maintain compliance;
- (w) Recommending policies to the Board;
- (x) Preparing and submitting to the Board, prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, a proposed budget for GIRMA for that fiscal year for review, revision and approval by the Board; and
- (y) Providing such other administrative assistance as may be requested in writing or through official action of the Board and approved by the Administrator.

Section 2.

Board of Trustees. In addition to its general powers set forth in Article III, the Board has the following specific powers and duties:

- (a) To provide general oversight of the operation of GIRMA and its business activities in accordance with these Bylaws, applicable

- federal and state statutes, and applicable governmental regulations;
- (b) To incur debts, liabilities and obligations;
 - (c) To acquire, hold, encumber or dispose of real and personal property;
 - (d) To sue or be sued in the name of the GIRMA, and take all measures necessary or desirable in the prosecution or defense of claims;
 - (e) To establish and arrange for the administration of such group self-insurance funds as the Board deems advisable;
 - (f) To pay authorized losses on behalf of GIRMA Members participating in a fund or funds;
 - (g) To employ legal counsel, accountants and such other professional services as it from time to time shall deem necessary;
 - (h) To appoint an investment consultant, actuary, custodian and auditor for GIRMA on an annual basis, and to appoint investment managers as needed;
 - (i) To establish an excess loss funding program as the Board deems necessary to protect the interest of the Members and GIRMA;
 - (j) To contract for reinsurance with the advice of the Administrator;
 - (k) To adopt rules and general policies necessary or appropriate for the efficient operation of GIRMA, which shall be followed by all committees, officers, agents and independent contractors providing services for GIRMA;
 - (l) To enter into contracts for services provided directly to GIRMA by entities other than the Administrator;
 - (m) To enter into contracts with GMA to serve as Administrator, and for licensing and other services, which may include providing for payment of reasonable institutional value fees;
 - (n) To adopt underwriting guidelines that describe the requirements for admission and continued participation of Members;
 - (o) To approve proper accounting and reporting procedures so that the Members shall be apprised of the nature of the claims arising within their jurisdiction, the manner in which these claims are being processed, and the impact of the claims upon GIRMA;
 - (p) To take all necessary precautions to safeguard the assets of GIRMA, including but not limited to the following:
 - (1) Adopting an annual budget for each fiscal year of GIRMA;
 - (2) Retaining control of all monies collected or disbursed for GIRMA; all funds of any type shall remain in the custody of the Trustees or the custodian appointed by the Board;
 - (3) Having the accounts and records of the GIRMA audited annually or at any time which may be required for any

governmental agency to implement any uniform accounting system, and making copies of each year's audits available during that year to each Member, and, to the extent required by law, to the Commissioner; and

- (4) Abiding by all applicable federal and state statutes and administrative regulations;
- (q) To expend GIRMA assets for the purpose of purchasing fiduciary liability and general insurance deemed appropriate by the Trustees;
- (r) To approve dividends. That portion of premium contributions not needed for payment of claims, administrative expenses and/or appropriate reserves may be returned to the Members of GIRMA from time to time, in such amounts and proportions as the Board, in its discretion, may determine is proper, in accordance with applicable law and Commissioner regulations. No surplus accumulations may be returned if such payment will impair the capital stability and/or security of GIRMA. Any participant who withdraws and/or is not in good standing at the time of such distribution may be barred from receiving any portion of the distribution or may be subject to such restrictions as the Board, in its discretion, may impose;
- (s) To establish the method for collection of any assessments of Members, which become necessary to meet any financial deficiency of GIRMA or of any fund;
- (t) To approve revisions to the Intergovernmental Agreement when appropriate or necessary and submit the revisions to the Membership for approval at a regular or special meeting of the Membership;
- (u) To establish a group self-insurance fund or funds comprised of public monies from contributions of Members in order to pool and jointly self-insure the risks of general liability, motor vehicle liability, property damage, or any combination of such risks;
- (v) To establish a schedule of Member contributions which shall annually produce a sum of money necessary to pay the administrative expenses of GIRMA, to create adequate loss reserves for each fund and to meet any capital or surplus requirements. Each Member's contribution shall be determined in accordance with the method established by the Board; and
- (w) To perform any other function incident to their office and in keeping with applicable Georgia laws and the regulations of the Commissioner.

Section 3.

Fraud Investigation and Reporting. Allegations of fraud relating to the Fund shall be reported to the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer or the Administrator's Deputy Executive Director of RMEBS, who shall be charged with immediately notifying the

Secretary-Treasurer and the Deputy Executive Director of RMEBS, if they were not previously notified, and the Administrator of such allegation. The Administrator shall promptly report suspected fraud to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire Criminal Investigations Division in accordance with its stated procedures, and to the Board.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Section 1. Regular Meetings. The Board may provide for the time and place for the holding of regular meetings of the Board and shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings of the Board per year.
- Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairperson and, in his or her absence, by the Vice Chairperson, or upon the request of one-third of the members of the Board. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may choose the place and date for the holding of the special meeting called. By unanimous consent of the Trustees, special meetings of the Board may be held without notice at any time and place in compliance with these Bylaws so long as any requirements of applicable law are satisfied. All notices of special meetings of the Board shall state the purposes thereof.
- Section 3. Place of Meetings. All in-person meetings shall be held in the State of Georgia. All references in these Bylaws to the “place” of a meeting include a virtual place accessed via telecommunications or electronically, and notice of the location of such a virtual place shall include instructions for accessing the meeting.
- Section 4. Notices. Notice of any regular or special meeting of the Board shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting by written notice sent by mail, facsimile or electronic mail to each Trustee at the Trustee’s address as shown by the records of the Board. The notice shall state the time, date, and place of the meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States Mail in a sealed envelope properly addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. Notice given by electronic means, either facsimile or electronic mail, shall be deemed to be delivered when sent. Any Trustee may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of any Trustee at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except when a Trustee attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting was not lawfully called or convened. The notice of a special meeting shall state the purpose

of the meeting. Business to be transacted at a regular meeting need not be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by statute or these Bylaws.

- Section 5. Quorum. Eight Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the Board participating may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. Trustees may participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all Trustees participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting.
- Section 6. Manner of Acting. The act of a majority of Trustees participating in a meeting (including those participating by proxy or those participating remotely) shall be the act of the Board, unless the act of a greater number is required by statute, regulation, or the Bylaws.
- Section 7. Proxies. At any meeting of the Board, a Trustee entitled to vote may vote by proxy executed in writing (which writing may be electronic) by the Trustee or by his or her duly appointed attorney in fact. Proxies shall be recorded by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to the commencement of each meeting of the Board and shall be noted in the minutes.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

- Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer.
- Section 2. Election and Term of Office. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board shall be the Trustees elected by the GMEBS Trustees to serve as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of GMEBS, provided that such Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are employees of or appointed or elected officials of a municipal corporation that is a GIRMA Member. Additionally, effective on or after January 1, 2021, only Trustees who are employees of or appointed or elected officials of a municipal corporation that participates in the GIRMA Property and Liability Insurance Fund may serve as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. Every new Chairperson or Vice Chairperson must submit a completed application to the Commissioner to serve as an officer of this Board. If the Commissioner objects to his or her

election, the election will be invalidated on a prospective basis. The GMA Executive Director shall serve as the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3. Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be the principal executive officer of the Board and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Board. The Chairperson shall: preside at all meetings of the Members and the Board; call the annual meeting of the GIRMA Membership; sign contracts with GMA which the Board has authorized; call regular and special meetings of the Board; appoint an executive committee and special committees of the Board; serve as an ex-officio member of special committees; serve as chairperson of the executive committee; and perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board or as are consistent with the duties of the office of Chairperson.

Section 4. Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall: assist and aid the Chairperson whenever required in carrying out the duties of the Chairperson; preside at all meetings of the Members of GIRMA and of the Board in the absence of the Chairperson; be authorized to act on behalf of the Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson's incapacity or other failure to serve; and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson or Board from time to time.

Section 5. Secretary-Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer shall be combined. The Secretary-Treasurer is a non-voting member of the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer is delegated the authority to perform, and is responsible to the Board for performing, the following duties either directly or through his or her designee:

- (a) Notifying Members of the time, date and place of annual Member meetings and soliciting and recording proxies for those unable to attend such meetings, and seeing that all other meeting notices required by these Bylaws or applicable law are duly provided;
- (b) Notifying Trustees of Board meetings and soliciting and recording proxies for those unable to attend meetings, and seeing that all other meeting notices required by these Bylaws or applicable law are duly provided;
- (c) Keeping a register of the post office address, electronic mail address and/or facsimile number of each member of the Board which shall be furnished to the Secretary-Treasurer by such Trustee;
- (d) Performing all the duties consistent with the office of Secretary-Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Chairperson or the Board;

- (e) Executing contracts with service providers performing services directly to the Fund (except for contracts with GMA) after such service providers have been approved by the Board;
- (f) Serving as a permanent non-voting member of all Board committees, including but not limited to the Executive Committee; and
- (g) Signing all checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of GIRMA, except as otherwise stated by resolution of the Board.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the five Trustees who serve on the GMEBS Executive Committee: the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, immediate past chairperson and two Trustees appointed by the Chairperson, provided that such Trustees are employees of or appointed or elected officials of municipal corporations that participate in the GIRMA Property and Liability Insurance Fund. The Executive Committee shall recommend policies, review and recommend program operating budgets, and act on behalf of the Board in the interim between Board meetings.

Section 2. Special Committee. The authority of a special committee is limited to the charge given the committee by the Chairperson when establishing such committee; however, the designation of such committee and the delegation of authority thereto shall not operate to relieve the Board, or any individual Trustee, of any responsibility imposed upon it or upon the Trustee by law. Each special committee appointed shall be deemed to have concluded its work upon reporting back to the Board.

Section 3. Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall be comprised of the five Trustees who serve on the GIRMA Executive Committee. The Audit Committee shall meet at least once annually and is responsible for the duties set forth in Rule 120-2-60.14 of the Georgia Department of Insurance, including but not limited to annually selecting the auditor for the next fiscal year (subject to ratification by the full Board), reviewing the annual audit and following its approval of the annual audit, and reporting on and recommending the annual audit to the full Board for approval.

The Administrator shall schedule an annual meeting of the GIRMA Audit Committee to receive a report on, review, and vote to approve

or disapprove the annual audit and to select the auditor for the following year, subject to ratification by the full Board. This annual audit committee meeting may be held jointly with the annual audit committee meetings of the GMEBS and GMA WCSIF audit committees, provided that the Audit Committee receives a report specific to GIRMA and holds discussion and a vote on the GIRMA annual audit independently of any discussion or votes taken concerning the GMEBS or GMA WCSIF annual audit.

Section 4. Governance. The Notice, Quorum, Manner of Acting, and Proxies sections under Article V “Meetings of the Board of Trustees” shall apply to meetings of Board Committees, except that all references to Trustees in those sections shall be replaced with “Committee Members”, all references to the Board shall be replaced with “Board Committee”, and a majority of the Committee members shall constitute a Quorum.

ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. GIRMA shall operate on a fiscal year from 12:01 a.m. January 1 to 12:01 a.m. January 1 of each succeeding year. Each fiscal year shall be maintained separately for accounting purposes.

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

Section 1. Annual Meetings; Joint Annual Meeting. For the convenience of Members, when feasible, the Administrator shall schedule an annual, in-person meeting of GIRMA Members during the Administrator’s annual convention in an appropriate location. The annual, in-person meeting of the Members shall be held for the purposes of electing members to the GMEBS Board of Trustees, all of which also serve on the Board of Trustees of GIRMA and of the GMA Workers Compensation Self-Insurance Fund (“GMA WCSIF”), delivering of a statement of the general financial condition of GIRMA and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. For the purpose of electing Trustees, the annual, in-person meeting of the Members shall be held jointly with the annual meetings of the “Members” of GMEBS (“GMEBS Members”) and the “Members” of GMA WCSIF (“GMA WCSIF Members”), as defined in their respective bylaws. For purposes of this Article, this

meeting shall be referred to as the “Joint Annual Meeting” and the GMA WCSIF Members, GIRMA Members and GMEBS Members shall be collectively referred to as the “Voting Employers”. In all manner, substance and effect, elections of Trustees to the Board shall take place simultaneously with and in the manner described in Article IX of the GMEBS bylaws. An oral report on the general financial condition of GIRMA shall be given to GIRMA Members at each annual meeting. At the same meeting, a written copy of this report shall be made available to the GIRMA Members by the Board Chairperson or his or her designee.

- Section 2. Special Meetings of the Members. If the election of Trustees is not held as designated herein at the annual, in-person meeting of the Members provided for in Section 1 above, or at any adjournment thereof, the Board shall cause the Trustee election to be held at a special meeting of the Members, jointly with the GMA WCSIF Members and the GMEBS Members, as soon thereafter as is reasonably convenient. Special meetings of the Members may be called by the chairperson of the Board or by not less than one-fourth (1/4) of the entities comprising the GIRMA Members.
- Section 3. Place of Meeting of the Members. The Board of Trustees may designate any place within the State of Georgia as the place of meeting for any special meeting of the Members.
- Section 4. Notice. Written notice stating the place, date and hour of any meeting of the Members shall be delivered by mail, electronic mail or facsimile, to each Member entitled to vote at such meeting, not less than ten (10) and no more than ninety (90) days before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the Chairperson, or the Secretary-Treasurer, or the officers or persons calling the meeting. In the case of a special meeting or when required by statute or by these Bylaws, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. If mailed, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the Member at its address as it appears on the records of the Administrator, with postage thereon prepaid. If notice is given electronically, either by electronic mail or facsimile, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when sent to the electronic address for the Member as shown by the records of the Administrator.
- Section 5. Nomination of Trustees. Nomination of Trustees shall be made in accordance with the GMEBS Bylaws.

Section 6. Voting on Matters Relating to GIRMA (Other than Trustee Elections). Each Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter that the Board submits to a vote of the Members (other than Trustee elections). The vote of each Member shall be cast by its designated representative. Unless otherwise indicated in writing by a Member's chief executive or chief administrative officer, a Trustee shall be considered the designated representative for the Member for which he or she serves as an elected or appointed officer or employee. For each other Member, the chief executive or chief administrative officer shall be its designated representative. Except in the case of matters relating to the election or term limits of Trustees, no formal action will be taken based upon any Member vote without the consent of a majority of the Board present. The Board may in its discretion conduct a Member vote by mail ballot. In such case the mail ballot shall be deemed to be delivered when it is mailed or sent via facsimile or electronic mail in the manner required for provision of meeting notices under Section 4 above. The Board shall afford a reasonable period of time for return of mail ballots by Members. A majority vote of those Members voting shall be required for action on any matter submitted to a vote by mail ballot. With respect to election of Trustees, the applicable provisions of the GMEBS Bylaws shall control.

Section 7. Quorum. There is no quorum requirement. Rather, a majority vote of those Members voting in person or by proxy at a meeting shall be required for approval of any matter submitted to the Members for a vote.

Section 8. Proxies. At any meeting of the Members, a Member entitled to vote may vote by proxy executed in writing (which writing may be electronic) by the Member or by its designated representative. Proxies must be submitted to the Administrator at least 14 days prior to the meeting, unless a shorter period is necessary due to circumstances beyond the designated representative's control. Proxies shall be recorded by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to the commencement of the Annual Meeting and shall be noted in the minutes.

ARTICLE X

INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF A MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Reasons. A Member may be involuntarily terminated as a Member of GIRMA in the middle of the year, and not as a result of GIRMA's

non-renewal, for:

- (a) Failure to timely pay its contribution, assessment, or otherwise to discharge its financial obligations to GIRMA when due;
- (b) Failure to timely report to the Administrator, or its designee accidents or other incidents which might involve indemnifications from GIRMA or from a fund established by GIRMA;
- (c) Failure to comply with the loss control and written management recommendations of GIRMA or GIRMA's representatives or agents;
- (d) Failure to comply with any requirements contained within a coverage description of a fund in which the Member participates;
- (e) Excessive losses; or
- (f) Failure to comply with the law, rules and regulations of the Georgia Insurance Commissioner, or the Intergovernmental Contract establishing GIRMA or these Bylaws.

Section 2.

Method. Termination for failure to pay a contribution or assessment when due, or for failure to otherwise discharge its obligations to a fund or to GIRMA when due shall be accomplished by written notice stating the time the termination will be effective, not less than fifteen (15) days from the date of notice, to be delivered in person or by depositing such notice in the U.S. Mail by at least first class mail to the last address of record of the Member, and receiving the receipt provided by the United States Postal Service for such deposit. Such notice may or may not be accompanied by a tender of the unearned premium paid by the Member, calculated on a pro rata basis. If such tender is not made simultaneously with such notice, it shall be made within fifteen (15) days of notice of termination, unless an audit or rate investigation is required, in which case such tender shall be made as soon as practicable.

Involuntary termination for any other cause shall require forty-five (45) days advance written notice.

The Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Georgia shall be furnished a copy of any termination notice forwarded to a Member.

Section 3.

Data. GIRMA will provide any terminated Member the data reasonably necessary for transition to a replacement insurer.

Section 4.

Reinstatement. Reinstatement shall be upon such terms as the Board may impose.

ARTICLE XI

TERMINATION OF GIRMA OR GIRMA FUNDS

- Section 1. GIRMA shall cease its activities upon affirmative vote of not less than two thirds (2/3) of the Board requiring such cessation, with advance approval of the Commissioner if required by law. The Board may also terminate the existence of any fund or funds it has established by a majority vote of the Board, with advance approval of the Commissioner if required by law. To the extent of money remaining in a terminated fund, however, GIRMA shall continue to pay Members' claims and losses incurred prior to the date of a Fund's termination until the money in the terminated fund is exhausted. In the event that revenues remain in a terminated fund after payment of all claims, losses and other expenses, the Board may determine the method for calculating refunds to those Members who were Members at the time the fund ceased its activities. The Board shall determine the method that shall be used for the sale and distribution of proceeds in the event that there should be any property, real or personal, belonging to GIRMA at its termination. In the event of GIRMA's termination, the Board shall continue to meet for such period of time and with such frequency as may be necessary to wind down the affairs of GIRMA. The Board shall be authorized to sell, transfer or otherwise assign the processing and payment of claims to a third party in the event of termination of GIRMA or in the event of termination of a fund.
- Section 2. The Commissioner may terminate GIRMA or any of its Funds only in accordance with applicable law, and subject to GIRMA's rights under applicable law.

ARTICLE XII

WAIVER OF NOTICE

- Section 1. Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of these Bylaws, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. Bylaws Amendments.

- (a) The Board shall have power to amend or repeal the Bylaws by an affirmative two-thirds majority vote of the Board at any regular or special meeting of the Board.
- (b) Written notice of proposed amendment(s) or repeal, including the language of the proposed amendment(s) or repeal, must be mailed or electronically provided to each Member not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting in which they are presented to the Board for adoption. Notice of approved bylaws amendments or repeal shall be provided to the Members at the next annual or special meeting of the Members following the Board's approval of such amendment(s) or repeal.

Section 2. Amendments to Intergovernmental Contract. Any amendment to the Intergovernmental Contract must be approved by a majority of the Members voting at a meeting of the Members.

ARTICLE XIV

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. To govern processes and relationships within the organization in cases not provided for in statute or Bylaws, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used. However, by resolution, the Board may determine to follow instead any set of Rules of Order determined by the Administrator's General Counsel or by the Board's separate legal counsel to be appropriate.