



## Agenda Item Request

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**FROM:** Shavala Ames, City Clerk  
**TO:** Shawn Edmondson, City Manager  
**DATE:** January 16, 2025  
**TITLE:** Consideration of an action on a request to set Public Hearing date regarding House Bill 581

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Mayor and Council to set a Special Called Meeting to designate a third Public Hearing date.

### **BACKGROUND**

House Bill 581 was passed by the Georgia General Assembly during the 2024 legislative session and an enabling constitutional amendment (HR 1022) was subsequently approved through a statewide ballot question during the November 2024 election. Within HB 581, O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2 provides for a statewide floating homestead exemption which applies to counties, consolidated governments, municipalities, and local school districts.

While the homestead exemption automatically applies to all local governments and school districts, these jurisdictions may stop the homestead exemption from becoming effective within their jurisdiction by following certain procedures by March 1, 2025.

O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2(i) provides the necessary procedures for local governments to opt out of the HB 581 homestead exemption. To opt out, the local government or school district must adopt a resolution opting out of the exemption (see model resolution provided) after completing the following steps, which must be completed between January 1, 2025, and March 1, 2025:

The local government must advertise the intent to opt out and conduct at least three public hearings on the issue, with at least one of the public meetings occurring between 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. on a business weekday.

The City of Stone Mountain is anticipating to set Public Hearings at the February 4, 2025 and February 18, 2025 City Council Meeting, however a third Public Hearing must be set prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Staff is requesting Mayor and Council to hold a Special Called Meeting for this purpose.