WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IX, Section II, Paragraph III of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the County is empowered to provide public health care facilities and services, including hospitals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-220, county taxes may be levied (i) for public health purposes in the County and (ii) to provide for hospitalization and medical or other care for indigent sick people of the County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the Authority is authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance and sale of negotiable revenue anticipation certificates for the purpose of paying the cost of (i) the acquisition, construction, alteration, repair, modernization, and charges incident thereto in connection with facilities and projects, (ii) paying off or refinancing any outstanding debt or obligation of the Authority incurred in connection with the acquisition or construction of facilities of the Authority, and (iii) refunding outstanding certificates; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the County is authorized to enter into a contract with the Authority for such periods of time not exceeding 40 years to provide for the continued maintenance and use of facilities of the Authority, provided sums payable under such a contract are paid to provide for the maintenance and operation of projects of the Authority and/or adequate and necessary facilities for medical care and hospitalization of the indigent sick; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, upon execution of such a contract, the County shall provide for the payment for the services and facilities of the Authority used by residents of the County out of general funds of the County or out of tax revenues realized for the purpose of providing medical care or hospitalization for the indigent sick and others entitled to use of the services and facilities of the Authority; and for the purpose of providing such tax revenues, the County is authorized to levy ad valorem taxes not exceeding seven mills from which revenues when realized the County shall appropriate sums sufficient to pay for the costs of the use of the services and facilities of the Authority by residents of the County, which costs may include (i) the cost of acquiring, constructing, altering, repairing, renovating, improving and equipping projects, (ii) principal, interest and sinking fund and other reserve requirements in connection with the issuance of revenue certificates of the Authority to finance the cost of projects and the payment of expenses incident thereto, (iii) the cost of operating, maintaining and repairing such projects, and (iv) the cost of retiring, refinancing or refunding any outstanding debt or other obligation of any nature incurred by the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Authority owns and operates a hospital facility located in the County known as "South Georgia Medical Center" (herein sometimes referred to as the "Hospital"); and