

House Resolution 14

By: Representatives Irvin of the 45th, Wilkinson of the 43rd, Willard of the 44th, Ashe of the 46th, Campbell of the 42nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to require the General Assembly to
2 provide by law for the creation of a Land, Water, Wildlife, and Recreation Heritage Fund
3 from which funds shall be disbursed for the purposes of local government recreation grants
4 and acquiring, conserving, managing, or preserving Georgia's natural and historic areas,
5 water resources, and wildlife habitats; to provide for payments into the heritage fund; to
6 provide for the applicability of certain provisions of the Constitution; to correct and
7 redesignate a subparagraph designation; to provide for the submission of this amendment for
8 ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**SECTION 1.**

11 Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI of the Constitution is amended by redesignating the
12 second subparagraph (k) at the end thereof as subparagraph (l) and by adding a new
13 subparagraph immediately following subparagraph (l), to be designated subparagraph (m),
14 to read as follows:

15 "(m) The General Assembly is required to provide by law for the creation of a Land, Water,
16 Wildlife, and Recreation Heritage Fund from which funds shall be disbursed for the
17 purposes of: (1) local government recreation grants; and (2) acquiring, conserving,
18 managing, or preserving Georgia's natural and historic areas, water resources, and wildlife
19 habitats. The General Assembly shall provide by law that all of the moneys derived from
20 the annual levy of state ad valorem taxes pursuant to Article VII, Section I, Paragraph II
21 shall be transferred annually to the heritage fund. The General Assembly may also provide
22 by general law for the dedication and deposit into the heritage fund of revenues raised from
23 other specific sources for the purposes of the heritage fund. The heritage fund shall
24 constitute a separate account in the state treasury. Heritage fund proceeds shall be
25 specifically identified by the Governor in the annual budget as a separate category entitled
26 'heritage fund proceeds'; and, in the General Appropriations Act, the General Assembly

1 shall appropriate not more than 25 percent of the heritage fund proceeds for local
2 government recreation grants and not more than 75 percent of the heritage fund proceeds
3 for the other purposes authorized in this subparagraph. Funding for recreation grants shall
4 be appropriated to one or more executive branch agencies and shall be awarded by such
5 agency or agencies through a competitive grant process which shall be equally open to all
6 units of local government. The General Assembly may provide by law for the
7 administration of the heritage fund and may provide for the sunset or termination of the
8 heritage fund or any or all of its revenue sources. Moneys paid into the heritage fund shall
9 not be subject to the provisions of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph IV(c), relative to
10 lapsing of funds, or of Article VII, Section III, Paragraph II, relative to funds paid into the
11 state treasury, except that moneys appropriated from the heritage fund and not committed
12 shall lapse back to the heritage fund."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
15 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
16 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

17 " YES Shall the Constitution be amended so as to require the General
18 Assembly to provide by law for the creation of a Land, Water,
19 NO Wildlife, and Recreation Heritage Fund, with moneys derived from the
20 annual levy of state ad valorem taxes, from which funds shall be
21 disbursed for the purposes of local government recreation grants and
22 for acquiring, conserving, managing, or preserving Georgia's natural
23 and historic areas, water resources, and wildlife habitats?"

24 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
25 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
26 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in such Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
27 become a part of the Constitution of this state and shall take effect as provided in Article X,
28 Section I, Paragraph VI of the Constitution.