

Senate Resolution 85

By: Senators Walker of the 22nd, Brown of the 26th, Harbison of the 15th, Fort of the 39th, Hooks of the 14th and Johnson of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Proclaiming the Georgia Water Bill of Rights; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the surface and ground waters of the State of Georgia are public resources and
3 are vital areas held by the state as a trustee charged with the duty to manage these waters in
4 the best interests of the public; and
- 5 WHEREAS, each Georgian has the right to expect that the waters of the state and below the
6 surface of the earth will be conserved and maintained as a perpetual blessing to the state's
7 citizens and ecological system; and
- 8 WHEREAS, management of the state's water resources must ensure the integrity of these
9 resources by acknowledging the natural flow of waters through the watersheds and aquifers,
10 from the mountains to the sea; and
- 11 WHEREAS, clean surface water and pure ground water are essential to Georgians' health,
12 welfare, and prosperity, and our citizens no longer accept the assertion that polluted water
13 is a necessary price for economic progress; and
- 14 WHEREAS, no person or community should bear a disproportionate share of the burden
15 resulting from the water use of others; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia have the right to use the surface and ground water
17 resources on their properties, but the use must be reasonable in manner to the extent that the
18 water supply is not depleted or degraded to the detriment of the health of people and
19 wildlife; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Georgians have the right to the full, timely, and equitable enforcement of local,
21 state, and federal environmental laws, which rightfully require protection of water quality
22 and all life dependent on that quality; and

1 WHEREAS, all decisions by government officials, the public trustees of Georgia's waters,
2 shall be made in open forums, after full disclosure through public discussion and deliberation
3 of all scientific, political, and economic facts and associated impacts, and citizens shall have
4 readily available and unrestricted access to such information; and

5 WHEREAS, our government shall be held accountable for the proper management of
6 Georgia's waters.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that the
8 members of this body declare the foregoing provisions to be the Georgia Water Bill of
9 Rights which shall guide the actions of all governmental officials and employees of this
10 state.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
12 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.