

House Bill 636

By: Representatives Smith of the 169th, Tillman of the 173rd and Keen of the 174th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 27-4-133 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 lawful nets for shrimping, opening and closing waters, and identification on boats taking
3 shrimp, so as to provide that it shall be unlawful to trawl with a foot-rope length greater than
4 220 feet; to provide for exceptions; to provide for penalties; to provide an effective date; to
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 27-4-133 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to lawful nets for
9 shrimping, opening and closing waters, and identification on boats taking shrimp, is amended
10 by inserting immediately following subsection (a) a new subsection to read as follows:

11 "(a.1)(1) It shall be unlawful to trawl with any trawl or trawls having a total foot-rope
12 length greater than 220 feet, not including the foot-rope length of a single trawl not
13 greater than 16 feet when used as a try net. Foot-rope shall be measured from brail line
14 to brail line, first tie to last tie on the bottom line. The department is authorized to exempt
15 trawls used by persons holding a valid scientific collection permit granted by the
16 department.

17 (2) A vessel operator who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a
18 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$500.00 nor more than
19 \$2,500.00 or imprisoned for not longer than thirty days or both, and any trawl on board
20 the vessel shall be contraband and may be seized."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
23 without such approval.

1

SECTION 3.

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.