

Senate Bill 249

By: Senators Marable of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and Lee of the 29<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to water  
2 resources of the state, so as to create the Rural Georgia Water Planning District; to provide  
3 a statement of legislative intent; to provide a statement of purpose; to define certain terms,  
4 including the district area; to provide for responsibilities of the district; to provide for  
5 governance of the district; to provide for coordinating committees and advisory councils to  
6 the district; to provide for watershed and storm-water management planning for the district  
7 area; to provide for waste-water management planning for the district area; to provide for  
8 water supply and conservation management planning for the district area; to promote public  
9 education and awareness; to provide for meetings; to provide for a budget and funding; to  
10 provide for oversight; to provide for powers and duties of the Board of Natural Resources  
11 and the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural  
12 Resources with respect to requirements and standards for plans and for water resources; to  
13 provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
14 other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

16 **SECTION 1.**

17 Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to water resources  
18 of the state, is amended by adding at its end a new Article 10 to read as follows:

19 "ARTICLE 10

20 12-5-570.

21 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Rural Georgia Water Planning District  
22 Act.'

1 12-5-571.

2 (a) The General Assembly recognizes the value of the Rural Georgia area watersheds for  
3 water supply, recreation, habitat for fish and wildlife, economic prosperity, and quality of  
4 life. The General Assembly finds that adequate supplies of clean water for drinking and  
5 other purposes constitute the lifeblood of the entire State of Georgia and are, therefore,  
6 essential to the health, welfare, and economic progress of the state. The purpose of this  
7 article is to create a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive regional and  
8 watershed-specific plans to be implemented by local governments in the state. These plans  
9 will protect water quality and public water supplies in the state, protect recreational values  
10 of the waters in the state, and minimize potential adverse impacts of development on  
11 waters in and downstream of the state.

12 (b) The General Assembly finds that the waters and watersheds of the district are natural  
13 resources, environments, and vital areas within the meaning of Article III, Section VI,  
14 Paragraph II of the Constitution of the State of Georgia.

15 12-5-572.

16 (a) There is created the Rural Georgia Water Planning District.

17 (b) The general purposes of the district shall be to establish policy, create plans, and  
18 promote intergovernmental coordination for all water issues in the district; to facilitate  
19 multijurisdictional water related projects; and to enhance access to funding for water  
20 related projects among local governments in the district area.

21 (c) It is the primary purpose of the district to develop regional and watershed-specific  
22 plans for storm-water management, waste-water treatment, water supply, water  
23 conservation, and the general protection of water quality, which plans will be implemented  
24 by local governments in the district.

25 12-5-573.

26 As used in this article, the term:

27 (1) 'Board' means the Rural Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board created  
28 under Code Section 12-5-575.

29 (2) 'Director' means the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the  
30 Department of Natural Resources.

31 (3) 'District' means the entity established by this article that shall have planning  
32 responsibility for watershed and storm-water management, waste-water management, and  
33 water supply and conservation management within the district area.

34 (4) 'District area' means any county which has a population of 100,000 or less according  
35 to the 2000 United States decennial census or any future such census and all counties

1 geographically contiguous to any such county; provided, however, that any such  
2 contiguous county may, by a majority vote of the governing authority thereof and with  
3 the written approval of the director, remove itself from the district area.

4 (5) 'Local government' means any county or municipality of this state lying in whole or  
5 in part within the district area.

6 12-5-574.

7 (a) The district shall promote regional coordination and cooperation through the exercise  
8 of the following powers:

9 (1) Development of regional and watershed-specific plans for storm-water management;

10 (2) Development of regional and watershed-specific plans for waste-water management;

11 (3) Development of regional and watershed-specific plans for water supply and water  
12 conservation;

13 (4) Development of regionally consistent policies, model ordinances, and minimum  
14 standards of performance for local governments relating to the creation and  
15 implementation of the plans developed by the district;

16 (5) Development and coordination of an effective regional and watershed-specific water  
17 quality monitoring program and development and maintenance of a corresponding data  
18 base reflecting available monitoring data;

19 (6) Establishment of education programs on water quality issues and promotion of water  
20 conservation; and

21 (7) Identification of funding sources, including without limitation federal funding  
22 sources for the creation and implementation of plans provided for under this article.

23 (b) Approval by the district of any storm-water management plan, waste-water  
24 management plan, water supply and conservation plan, or other plan pursuant to this article  
25 shall not obligate any governing authority comprising a part of the district to provide  
26 funding for facilities planned or constructed pursuant to such plans which do not provide  
27 services to all or a portion of the population of such governing authority.

28 (c) No extension of time by the board for preparation of a plan provided for under this  
29 article shall exceed six months, nor shall more than one extension be granted for any such  
30 plan.

31 12-5-575.

32 (a) Any county in the district area and any municipality in the district area having a  
33 population of 15,000 or more according to the United States decennial census of 2000 or  
34 any future such census shall be a member of the district.

1 (b) There is established for the management of the business and affairs of the district a  
2 Rural Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board to be comprised of 28 members  
3 selected as follows:

4 (1) Twelve members shall be appointed by the Governor, four of whom shall be county  
5 commission chairpersons or chief executive officers of county members of the district  
6 and five of whom shall be mayors of municipalities within the district;

7 (2) Eight members shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, three of whom shall  
8 be county commission chairpersons or chief executive officers of county members of the  
9 district and two of whom shall be mayors of municipalities within the district; and

10 (3) Eight members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
11 three of whom shall be county commission chairpersons or chief executive officers of  
12 county members of the district and two of whom shall be mayors of municipalities within  
13 the district.

14 Of the initial appointments of the Governor, four shall be for terms of one year, four for  
15 terms of two years, and four for terms of three years, and their successors shall serve for  
16 terms of three years and until the appointment and qualification of their successors. Of the  
17 initial appointees of the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of  
18 Representatives, three shall be for terms of one year, three shall be for terms of two years,  
19 and two shall be for terms of three years, and their successors shall serve for terms of three  
20 years and until the appointment and qualification of their successors; and

21 (c) Any vacancy on the board shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the  
22 same manner as the original appointment to the vacated position. No vacancy on the board  
23 shall impair the right of the quorum of the remaining members then in office to exercise  
24 all rights and perform all duties of the board.

25 (d) The executive committee of the district shall consist of a chairperson, a vice  
26 chairperson, a secretary-treasurer, and such additional executive committee officers as the  
27 board may determine are appropriate from time to time, provided that the overall  
28 representation on the executive committee shall reflect the same ratio of members as  
29 comprise the district under subsection (a) of this Code section.

30 (e)(1) The initial chairperson and vice chairperson of the board shall be appointed by the  
31 Governor from among the membership of the board for a term of three years, and  
32 thereafter the chairperson and vice chairperson shall be appointed by majority vote of the  
33 board for a term of three years.

34 (2) As a qualification for office of chairperson, except for the initial chairperson, he or  
35 she shall have served at least one year as a member of the board. No chairperson shall  
36 serve in that capacity in excess of two consecutive terms.

1 (3) The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the district. He or she shall be the  
2 chief executive officer of the district.

3 (4) The vice chairperson shall serve in the absence of the chairperson and, in addition,  
4 shall assist the chairperson and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the  
5 board.

6 (5) The secretary-treasurer shall be the custodian of the books and records of the district,  
7 shall keep the minutes of all meetings, shall be the chief fiscal officer of the district, and  
8 shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the board.

9 12-5-576.

10 (a) The board shall meet at least six times per year at a time and place set forth in the  
11 minutes of the district and at such other times as the chairperson may direct. All such  
12 meetings shall be open to the public.

13 (b) Thirteen members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

14 (c) Once a quorum has been established, a majority of those present and voting shall be  
15 required to adopt any matter before the district.

16 (d) Each member of the board shall have one vote to be cast in person or by designee as  
17 provided in this article, and there shall be no voting by proxy.

18 (e) The district, by a majority vote of those members of the board present, may go into  
19 executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters, meeting with attorneys  
20 representing the district in adversarial or potentially adversarial situations, and for any  
21 other purpose authorized by and consistent with Chapter 14 of Title 50.

22 12-5-577.

23 (a) Prior to July 1 each year, the officers of the board shall submit to the district for  
24 adoption a preliminary budget required for the operation of the district during the ensuing  
25 calendar year, which shall also be the fiscal year.

26 (b) Funding for the district operations shall be derived from the following sources:

27 (1) Dues paid by cities and counties within the district such that the aggregate total of  
28 all such dues from all such cities and counties shall be no less than \$1 million annually.  
29 Such fees shall be raised on a per capita assessment or water-usage fee basis or based on  
30 a formula adopted and approved by the local government members of the district; and

31 (2) Appropriated or contracted state funds.

32 (c) The district is specifically empowered to contract or otherwise participate in and to  
33 accept grants, funds, gifts, or services from any federal, state, or local government or its  
34 agencies or instrumentalities and from private and civic sources and to expend funds

1 received therefrom under provisions as may be required and agreed upon by the district in  
2 connection with any program or purpose for which the district exists.

3 (d) All funds of the district not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time  
4 to the credit of the district in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the  
5 district may select.

6 12-5-578.

7 Any county or municipality adjoining a member county or municipality shall be added to  
8 the district area upon the application of such entity to be included in the district by  
9 resolution of its governing authority.

10 12-5-579.

11 The district may employ such additional staff and consulting services as the board in its  
12 discretion may determine to be necessary from time to time.

13 12-5-580.

14 (a) The board shall create one or more technical coordinating committees comprised  
15 primarily of water and waste-water officials from counties, cities, and authorities in the  
16 district. Such committees shall provide additional support to the board and staff for  
17 specific areas and issues such as water treatment, waste-water treatment, and storm-water  
18 management.

19 (b) The board shall create a finance committee which shall meet with the boards and staffs  
20 of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, the Department of Community Affairs,  
21 and the Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of developing recommendations  
22 for a funding structure for the district and for projects included in the district plans  
23 developed pursuant to this article, and that authority and those departments, their boards,  
24 and staffs are directed to cooperate with the district in developing such recommendations.  
25 The board shall consider the recommendations of the finance committee and forward them  
26 as adopted or amended to the Governor and the chairpersons of the Senate Natural  
27 Resources Committee and the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee not  
28 later than December 1, 2001. Such recommendations may be updated and revised from  
29 time to time thereafter.

30 12-5-581.

31 (a) The board shall create separate advisory councils for each river basin in this state.  
32 Each basin advisory council shall be comprised of a minimum of 20 individuals. These  
33 individuals shall be from within the district area as well as from outside the district area,

1 upstream and downstream of the district. These representatives shall be selected and shall  
2 serve based upon procedures and rules established by the board.

3 (b) The basin advisory councils shall advise the district in the development and  
4 implementation of policy, provide input to the director concerning the development of  
5 minimum elements and standards for plans provided for under this article, and provide  
6 input on the content of plans provided for under this article as such plans are developed.

7 (c) The board chairperson shall appoint one or more board members to convene meetings  
8 of the basin advisory councils from time to time. The district may provide advance drafts  
9 of such plans or recommendations as it may make pursuant to this article to basin advisory  
10 councils for review and input, and the basin advisory councils shall prepare reports and  
11 recommendations for consideration by the district in formulating any plan or taking any  
12 other action provided for under this article.

13 12-5-582.

14 (a) Within one year after the effective date of this article, unless such time period is  
15 extended by majority vote of the board, the district shall prepare for public comment one  
16 or more model ordinances for local governments designed to provide for effective  
17 storm-water management. Such model ordinances shall also include minimum design and  
18 development standards for local development as it may affect storm-water run-off quality  
19 and storm-water conveyance and infrastructure standards applicable to local governments.  
20 Upon receipt of public comment, the district shall finalize the model ordinances and  
21 publish the same.

22 (b) Within two years after the effective date of this article, unless such time period is  
23 extended by majority vote of the board, the district shall prepare for public comment a  
24 district-wide watershed management plan containing elements common to all watersheds  
25 within the district and containing within it watershed-specific components for watershed  
26 management. The plan shall build upon and be coordinated with existing watershed  
27 planning efforts undertaken by local governments and other entities in the district area and  
28 plans otherwise developed under this title. After receipt of public comment, the district  
29 shall approve the plan which shall meet all standards established by the director and shall  
30 include the following elements:

31 (1) Appropriate standards and methodologies for monitoring water quality and  
32 maintaining and organizing an inventory of collected water quality data;

33 (2) Descriptions of current pollutant loads by source categories, subsource categories,  
34 and specific sources where identifiable;

35 (3) Forecasts of potential future pollutant load increases by virtue of new development,  
36 growth, or other changes in watershed activities;

1 (4) Identification of streams or bodies of water within the applicable watershed having  
2 or requiring total maximum daily loads under applicable federal regulations; provisions  
3 for incorporating into the watershed-specific plan any implementation plan for total  
4 maximum daily loads as established by the director; and provisions to ensure that the  
5 watershed-specific plan conforms to requirements for implementation plans for streams  
6 requiring total maximum daily loads, such that said watershed-specific plan could be  
7 readily utilized by the director to meet applicable federal requirements for  
8 implementation plans for total maximum daily loads;

9 (5) Establishment of priorities for protecting watershed resources and for obtaining  
10 pollutant load reductions or preventing future pollutant load increases, or both, and an  
11 explanation of the rationale for such priorities;

12 (6) Identification of specific effective control programs and strategies including specific  
13 regulatory or voluntary actions to attain and maintain applicable water quality standards,  
14 including any pollutant load reductions mandated by implementation plans for total  
15 maximum daily loads; identification of specific public or private organizational  
16 responsibility for carrying out such control programs or voluntary actions, including  
17 without limitation instances where control programs require coordination among multiple  
18 jurisdictions, such that there are reasonable assurances that applicable water quality  
19 standards will be attained or maintained, or both;

20 (7) The model ordinances established under subsection (a) of this Code section and any  
21 recommended additions or modifications to such model ordinances, if appropriate, to  
22 provide additional measures to improve storm-water run-off quality, including without  
23 limitation, requirements to retrofit or modify existing developments in order to improve  
24 storm-water run-off quality;

25 (8) Recommended changes to state or local laws, regulations, or ordinances necessary  
26 to implement the plans;

27 (9) A timetable for implementation of necessary elements of the plans for each  
28 jurisdiction including description of annual, measurable milestones for determining  
29 whether identified measures are being implemented;

30 (10) Estimates of costs and identification of potential sources of funding necessary for  
31 implementation of the plans; and

32 (11) Education and public awareness measures regarding watershed protection.

33 (c) The district shall review the watershed management plan annually to determine  
34 whether there is a need to update such plan, and in any case the district shall prepare an  
35 updated watershed management plan no less frequently than every five years after  
36 finalization of the initial plan.

1 (d) The district shall hold public meetings concerning any plan or updated plan developed  
2 by the district under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this Code section and shall publish for  
3 public notice and comment any proposed approval, disapproval, or conditional approval  
4 of any such plan.

5 (e)(1) Local governments within the district shall implement the provisions of the district  
6 plans that apply to them. Should any jurisdiction fail to do so, the director shall exercise  
7 his or her powers pursuant to this chapter.

8 (2) Upon the district's approval of the plan, the director may modify all existing permits  
9 under Code Sections 12-5-29, 12-5-30, 12-5-31, 12-5-96, 12-5-97, and 12-5-179 and any  
10 NPDES Phase I or Phase II General Stormwater permits to make them consistent with  
11 the plan. The director may include as a condition in any issued, modified, or renewed  
12 permit to any local government under Code Section 12-5-29, 12-5-30, 12-5-31, 12-5-96,  
13 12-5-97, or 12-5-179 or any NPDES Phase I or Phase II General Stormwater permit the  
14 applicable contents of the district plan.

15 (3) The director shall not approve any application by a local government in the district  
16 to issue, modify, or renew a permit under Code Section 12-5-29, 12-5-30, 12-5-31,  
17 12-5-96, 12-5-97, or 12-5-179, if such permit would allow an increase in the permitted  
18 water withdrawal, public water system capacity, or waste-water treatment system  
19 capacity of such local government, or any NPDES Phase I or Phase II General  
20 Stormwater permit, unless such local government is in compliance with the applicable  
21 provisions of the plan or the director certifies to the board that such local government is  
22 making good faith efforts to come into such compliance.

23 (4) Any local government that fails to adopt substantially the applicable model  
24 storm-water ordinance developed by the district under subsection (a) of this Code  
25 section, or something at least as effective as said model ordinance, and any local  
26 government that fails to adopt the applicable plans developed by the district under this  
27 Code section shall be ineligible for state grants or loans for storm-water related projects  
28 determined by the director to be inconsistent with the terms of such model ordinance or  
29 such plans. The determination of the director may be appealed by the local government  
30 to the board, whose decision by majority vote shall be final.

31 (f) The watershed management plan shall be approved by the district only after  
32 certification by the director that the proposed plan is consistent with standards established  
33 by the director for such plan.

1 12-5-583.

2 (a) Within one year after the effective date of this article, unless such time period is  
3 extended by majority vote of the board, the district shall develop a short-term plan to ease  
4 immediate waste-water capacity constraints and to reduce the need for sewer tap moratoria.

5 (b) Within two years after the effective date of this article, unless such time period is  
6 extended by majority vote of the board, the district shall develop a long-term waste-water  
7 management plan for the district covering a period of time of no less than 20 years. The  
8 plan shall be coordinated with and address any existing waste-water planning efforts  
9 undertaken by local governments in the district area and plans otherwise developed under  
10 this title. After receipt of public comments, the district shall approve the plan which shall  
11 meet all standards established by the director, and the plan shall consist of the following  
12 minimum elements:

13 (1) Identification of anticipated waste-water treatment capacity requirements over the  
14 life of the plan;

15 (2) Recommended future upgrades and expansions of existing waste-water treatment  
16 facilities;

17 (3) Measures to maximize efficiency through multijurisdictional approaches to avoid  
18 duplication of efforts and unnecessary costs;

19 (4) A timetable for phasing out existing plants if appropriate; upgrading or expanding  
20 existing plants; and construction of new plants;

21 (5) An inspection and maintenance program for septic tanks in critical areas and  
22 recommendations for effective approaches to phase out existing septic tank use or  
23 discourage increased septic tank use, or both;

24 (6) Identification of appropriate opportunities for gray-water reuse or the implementation  
25 of other technologies to increase waste-water treatment capacity or efficiency; and

26 (7) Education and public awareness measures regarding waste-water management.

27 (c) The district shall review the waste-water management plan developed under subsection  
28 (b) of this Code section annually to determine whether there is a need to update such plan,  
29 and in any case the district shall prepare an updated waste-water management plan no less  
30 frequently than every five years after the director's approval of the initial plan.

31 (d) The district shall hold public meetings concerning any plan or updated plan developed  
32 by the district under this Code section and shall publish for public notice and comment any  
33 proposed approval, disapproval, or conditional approval of any such plan.

34 (e)(1) Local governments within the district shall implement the provisions of the district  
35 plans that apply to them. Should any jurisdiction fail to do so, the director may exercise  
36 his or her powers pursuant to this chapter.

1 (2) Upon the district's approval of the plan, the director may modify all existing permits  
 2 under Code Sections 12-5-29, 12-5-30, 12-5-31, 12-5-96, 12-5-97, and 12-5-179 to make  
 3 them consistent with the plan. The director may include as a condition in any issued,  
 4 modified, or renewed permit to any local government under Code Section 12-5-29,  
 5 12-5-30, 12-5-31, 12-5-96, 12-5-97, or 12-5-179 the applicable contents of the district  
 6 plan.

7 (3) The director shall not approve any application by a local government in the district  
 8 to issue, modify, or renew a permit under Code Section 12-5-29, 12-5-30, 12-5-31,  
 9 12-5-96, 12-5-97, or 12-5-179, if such permit would allow an increase in the water  
 10 withdrawal, public water system capacity, or waste-water treatment system capacity of  
 11 such local government, unless such local government is in compliance with the  
 12 applicable provisions of the plan or the director certifies that such local government is  
 13 making good faith efforts to come into compliance.

14 (4) Any local government that fails to adopt the applicable plans developed by the  
 15 district under this Code section shall be ineligible for state grants or loans for waste-water  
 16 related projects determined by the director to be inconsistent with the terms of such plan.  
 17 The determination of the director may be appealed by the local government to the board,  
 18 whose decision by majority vote shall be final.

19 (f) The waste-water management plan shall be approved by the district only after  
 20 certification by the director that the proposed plan is consistent with the standards  
 21 established by the director for such plan.

22 12-5-584.

23 (a) Within two years after the effective date of this article, unless such time period is  
 24 extended by majority vote of the board, the district shall prepare a water supply and water  
 25 conservation management plan. The plan shall build upon and be coordinated with  
 26 existing watershed planning efforts undertaken by local governments in the district area  
 27 and plans otherwise developed by the state. After receipt of public comments, the district  
 28 shall approve the plan which shall meet all standards established by the director, and the  
 29 plan shall include the following minimum elements:

30 (1) A description of current water supply resources within the district and potential  
 31 limitations on such supply resources;

32 (2) Projected water supply requirements over a 20 year period for the district, including  
 33 projections given differing population, consumption, and conservation scenarios;

34 (3) Identification of opportunities to expand water supply resources;

35 (4) A water conservation program including voluntary measures, best management  
 36 practices, and measures enforceable through local ordinances; and

1 (5) Education and public awareness measures regarding water conservation.

2 (b) The district shall review the water supply and water conservation management plan  
3 developed under this Code section annually to determine whether there is a need to update  
4 such plan, and in any case the district shall prepare an updated water supply and water  
5 conservation management plan no less frequently than every five years after approval of  
6 the initial plan.

7 (c) The district shall hold public meetings concerning any plan developed by the district  
8 under subsection (a) of this Code section and shall publish for public notice and comment  
9 any proposed approval, disapproval, or conditional approval of any such plan.

10 (d)(1) Local governments within the district shall implement the provisions of the  
11 district plans that apply to them. Should any jurisdiction fail to do so, the director may  
12 exercise his or her powers pursuant to this chapter.

13 (2) Upon the district's approval of the plan, the director may modify all existing permits  
14 under Code Sections 12-5-29, 12-5-30, 12-5-31, 12-5-96, 12-5-97, and 12-5-179 to make  
15 them consistent with the plan. The director may include as a condition in any issued,  
16 modified, or renewed permit to any local government under Code Section 12-5-29,  
17 12-5-30, 12-5-31, 12-5-96, 12-5-97, or 12-5-179 the applicable contents of the district  
18 plan.

19 (3) The director shall not approve any application by a local government in the district  
20 to issue, modify, or renew a permit under Code Section 12-5-29, 12-5-30, 12-5-31,  
21 12-5-96, 12-5-97, or 12-5-179, if such permit would allow an increase in the water  
22 withdrawal, public water system capacity, or waste-water treatment system capacity of  
23 such local government, unless such local government is in compliance with the  
24 applicable provisions of the plan or the director certifies that such local government is  
25 making good faith efforts to come into compliance.

26 (4) Any local government that fails to adopt the applicable plans developed by the  
27 district under this Code section shall be ineligible for state grants or loans for water  
28 supply and conservation projects determined by the director to be inconsistent with such  
29 plans. The determination of the director may be appealed by the local government to the  
30 board, whose decision by majority vote shall be final.

31 (e) The water supply and water conservation management plan shall be approved by the  
32 district only after certification by the director that the proposed plan is consistent with the  
33 standards established by the director for such plan.

34 12-5-585.

35 Any district plan required to include an element of education and public awareness shall  
36 describe those measures to be taken by the district and recommendations for measures to

1 be taken by other state agencies or local governments, by public education institutions, or  
 2 by any other public or semi-public entity. The district shall make these recommendations  
 3 known to the affected entities and strive to coordinate educational and public awareness  
 4 efforts. The district's efforts shall be designed to reach 75 to 90 percent of the population  
 5 in the district within five years.

6 12-5-586.

7 The district shall submit a written report not later than December 31 of each year to the  
 8 chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the  
 9 chairperson of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, which report shall contain a  
 10 detailed account of the activities and progress of the district throughout the previous year  
 11 and an accurate accounting of all funds received and expended by the district."

## 12 **SECTION 2.**

13 Code Section 12-5-23, relating to powers and duties to control water pollution and  
 14 surface-water use, is amended by striking the word "and" at the end of subparagraph  
 15 (a)(1)(Q); by adding the word "and" at the end of subparagraph (a)(1)(R); and by adding a  
 16 new subparagraph (a)(1)(S) to read as follows:

17 "(S) Establishing requirements for units of local government which have waste-water  
 18 discharge permits that allow a discharge of at least one million gallons per day to  
 19 submit to the director for approval watershed assessments and watershed protection  
 20 plans for areas within their political boundaries and for implementation of such plans;".

## 21 **SECTION 3.**

22 Said Code Section 12-5-23 is further amended by striking the word "and" at the end of  
 23 paragraph (14) of subsection (c); by replacing the period at the end of paragraph (15) of  
 24 subsection (c) with the symbol and word "; and"; and by adding a new paragraph (16) of  
 25 subsection (c) to read as follows:

26 "(16) Establish the standards for water plans prepared by the Rural Georgia Planning  
 27 District and certify such plans as consistent or inconsistent with such standards."

## 28 **SECTION 4.**

29 This Act shall become effective on May 1, 2001.

## 30 **SECTION 5.**

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