

The Senate Natural Resources Committee offered the following substitute to SR 85:

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, the quantity, quality, and reliability of Georgia waters shall be protected so that
6 the human use of water does not compromise the long-term sustainability of aquatic and
7 associated ecosystems; and all Georgians are responsible for the integrity of state waters, and
8 the costs of providing and protecting these resources must be fairly allocated among users;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, each Georgian has the right to expect that the waters of the state on and below
11 the surface of the earth will be utilized, conserved, and maintained as a perpetual blessing
12 to the state's citizens and ecological system; and

13 WHEREAS, management of the state's water resources must ensure the integrity of these
14 resources by acknowledging the natural flow of waters through the watersheds and aquifers,
15 from the mountains to the sea; and

16 WHEREAS, clean surface water and pure ground water are essential to Georgians' health,
17 welfare, and prosperity, and Georgians recognize that clean water is vital to sustainable
18 economic progress and a healthy economy; and

19 WHEREAS, no person or community should bear a disproportionate share of the burden
20 resulting from the water use of others; and

21 WHEREAS, all Georgians have the right to use the surface and ground-water resources on
22 their properties, but the use must be reasonable in manner to the extent that the water supply

1 is protected for the health of people and wildlife; and

2 WHEREAS, Georgians have the right to the full, timely, and equitable enforcement of local,
3 state, and federal environmental laws, which rightfully require protection of water quality
4 and all life dependent on that quality; and

5 WHEREAS, all decisions by government officials, the public trustees of Georgia's waters,
6 shall be made in open forums, after full disclosure through public discussion and deliberation
7 of all scientific, political, and economic facts and associated impacts; and

8 WHEREAS, our government is and shall be held accountable for the proper management
9 of Georgia's waters.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
11 declare the foregoing provisions to be the Georgia Water Bill of Rights which shall inform
12 and guide water policy decisions in the State of Georgia, and this resolution shall not have
13 the force of law.

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