

Senate Bill 286

By: Senators Walker of the 22nd, Dean of the 31st and Haines of the 46th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
2 "Georgia Water Quality Control Act," so as to provide for certain duties of the Board of
3 Natural Resources relative to the acceptance of water samples, measuring water salinity,
4 reporting water withdrawal, and establishing minimum stream flow; to provide for certain
5 duties of the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural
6 Resources relative to reporting interbasin transfers, making certain public reports, and certain
7 water monitoring; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Georgia
11 Water Quality Control Act," is amended by striking the word "and" at the end of paragraph
12 (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 12-5-23, relating to powers and duties of the Board of
13 Natural Resources and the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the
14 Department of Natural Resources with regard to the control of water pollution and
15 surface-water use generally; by striking the symbol "." at the end of paragraph (3) of
16 subsection (a) of such Code section and inserting in lieu thereof the symbol and word "
17 and"; and by inserting at the end of subsection (a) of such Code section the following:

18 "(4) By July 1, 2002, the board shall promulgate rules and regulations which:

19 (A) Establish acceptable sampling methods and analytical standards for water quality
20 samples collected and reported by any person to the division for its use in listing or
21 delisting impaired waters pursuant to the state's responsibilities under Sections 303(d)
22 and 305(b) of the federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. Sections 1313(d) and
23 1315(b), respectively, as now or hereafter amended;

24 (B) Establish acceptable sampling methods and analytical standards for measuring
25 salinity in coastal waters and defining the zones where salt, fresh, and brackish waters
26 mix; and

1 (C) Provide for an annual report of the volume of all water withdrawn from either
2 surface or subsurface waters by municipal, industrial, and agricultural users during the
3 previous year, setting forth such information by river drainage basin and subsurface
4 supply aquifer. To the extent possible, the director shall use information derived from
5 permits issued by the director pursuant to Code Sections 12-5-31 and 21-5-96, together
6 with any supporting documentation, to fulfill the requirements of this subparagraph."

7 SECTION 2.

8 Said article is further amended by striking the word "and" at the end of paragraph (14) of
9 subsection (c) of Code Section 12-5-23, relating to powers and duties of the Board of Natural
10 Resources and the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of
11 Natural Resources with regard to the control of water pollution and surface-water use
12 generally; by striking the symbol "." at the end of paragraph (15) of subsection (c) of such
13 Code section; and by inserting at the end of subsection (c) of such Code section the
14 following:

15 "(16) Provide an annual accounting for all transfers of water exceeding an annualized
16 one million gallons per day from one major river drainage basin or subsurface supply
17 aquifer to another. To the extent possible, the director shall use information derived from
18 permits issued by the director pursuant to Code Sections 12-5-30 and 21-5-31, together
19 with any supporting documentation, to fulfill the requirements of this paragraph;

20 (17) Provide an annual public report on the status of water quality monitoring of the
21 waters of the state, stating which stream segments are being monitored and which are not
22 and providing a schedule for when monitoring will be conducted; and

23 (18) Using the information required by subsection (h) of Code Section 12-5-23, create
24 and maintain a map or data base of the location of all discharges authorized by subsection
25 (a) of Code Section 12-5-30 that makes such information readily accessible to and
26 identifiable by the public."

27 SECTION 3.

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