

House Bill 915

By: Representative Jackson of the 148th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To define a certain term; to provide that there shall be no land-disturbing activities on a
2 coastal hammock in Chatham County; to provide criteria to be considered in considering a
3 waiver for hardship; to provide for the minimization of the impact on coastal hammocks; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 (a) As used in this Act the term:

8 (1) 'Coastal hammock' means any hammock adjacent to or surrounded by saltwater.

9 (2) 'Hammock' means an upland island that is surrounded by marsh or water at mean
10 high tide.

11 (b) There shall be no land-disturbing activities allowed on coastal hammocks in Chatham
12 County unless an unusual hardship exists. It shall be the duty of the applicant to demonstrate
13 to the governing authority of Chatham County that such an unusual hardship exists. If a
14 land-disturbing activity is permitted by the governing authority, the area of coastal hammock
15 to be altered must be as small as practicable for the purpose stated. Appropriate and
16 practicable steps must be taken to minimize the adverse impact on the coastal hammock and
17 surrounding marshland."

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.