

House Resolution 564

By: Representative Greene of the 158th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging governmental agencies to ensure adequate water supplies for turfgrass and
2 environmental horticulture; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, turfgrass and environmental horticulture, commonly known as urban
4 agriculture, is a \$5.67 billion industry which is second in agricultural economic value only
5 to the poultry industry in Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, this industry involves over 6,600 small businesses and 59,000 employees
7 working primarily with turfgrasses, landscapes, shrubs, flowers, and trees in every county
8 and municipality in Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, urban agriculture is a vital component of Georgia's economic development and
10 growth; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia's environmental quality is improved by landscapes which prevent or
12 reduce soil erosion, reduce storm water runoff and, at the same time, increase rainfall
13 infiltration, thus helping recharge surface and subsurface water resources, and filter out water
14 and air pollutants; and

15 WHEREAS, our citizen's quality of life is improved by beautiful and functional landscapes
16 that also help mitigate the urban "heat island" effect, enhance property values, and provide
17 recreational areas for all Georgians; and

18 WHEREAS, historically, this industry and its landscapes use less than 10 percent of the
19 potable water consumed in Georgia; and

20 WHEREAS, this industry seeks to promote water conservation and bases its
21 recommendations on sound science or research-based information.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the turfgrass and environmental horticulture industry should not be discriminated against in
3 the allocation of water by any governmental agency, that any governmental policy and
4 regulation should be based on objective science-based information, and that new landscape
5 and turfgrass installations be given a 30 day establishment period during which they would
6 be exempt from irrigation restrictions.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the director of the
9 Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.