

House Bill 206 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Scheid of the 17th, Hanner of the 159th, Stancil of the 16th and Pinholster of the 15th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to conservation and
2 natural resources, so as to provide that local water authorities shall have the authority to
3 establish a program pursuant to which customers may make voluntary contributions to
4 conservation and environmental projects; to provide that such authorities may establish and
5 operate such projects; to provide for rules and regulations relating to the acceptance of water
6 samples taken by certain persons; to provide for an accounting of waters transferred from one
7 water basin to another; to provide an exemption from the Erosion and Sedimentation Act of
8 1975; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to conservation and natural
12 resources, is amended by inserting immediately following Code Section 12-5-4 the
13 following:

14 "12-5-5.

15 Any local water authority created pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly shall have
16 the authority to solicit and receive from its customers voluntary donations to be used for
17 such programs and projects as the authority may designate designed to protect and improve
18 the quality of the waters of the state. Each such authority shall have the authority to
19 establish and operate one or more such programs or projects."

20 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

21 Said title is further amended by striking the word "and" at the end of paragraph (2) of
22 subsection (a) of Code Section 12-5-23, relating to powers and duties of the Board of Natural
23 Resources and the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of
24 Natural Resources with regard to the control of water pollution and surface-water use
25 generally; by striking the symbol "." at the end of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of such

1 Code section and inserting in lieu thereof the symbol and word "; and"; and by inserting at
2 the end of subsection (a) of such Code section the following:

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

4 (A) Establish acceptable sampling methods and analytical standards for water quality
5 samples collected and reported by any person to the division for its use in listing or
6 delisting impaired waters pursuant to the state's responsibilities under Sections 303(d)
7 and 305(b) of the federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. Sections 1313(d) and
8 1315(b), respectively, as now or hereafter amended; and

9 (B) Establish acceptable sampling methods and analytical standards for measuring
10 salinity in coastal waters and defining the zones where salt, fresh, and brackish waters
11 mix."

12 **SECTION 3.**

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

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

25 **SECTION 4.**

26 Said title is further amended by striking the word "and" at the end of paragraph (14) of
27 subsection (a) of Code Section 12-7-17, relating to exemptions from the Erosion and
28 Sedimentation Act of 1975; by striking the symbol "." at the end of paragraph (10) of
29 subsection (a) of such Code section and inserting in lieu thereof the symbol and word "; and";
30 and by inserting at the end of subsection (a) of such Code section the following:

31 "(11) Public Water System Reservoirs."

32 **SECTION 5.**

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