

House Bill 401

By: Representatives Broome of the 141st, Post 2, Sholar of the 141st, Post 1, Morris of the 120th, Barnard of the 121st, Post 1, Black of the 144th, and others

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 authorize the collection of certain submerged artifacts; to require
3 certain reporting; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to conservation and natural
8 resources, is amended by striking paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 12-3-621,
9 relating to protection of archeological, aboriginal, prehistoric, or historic sites, and inserting
10 in lieu thereof the following:

11 "(2) Disturb or alter in any manner the prevailing condition of any archeological,
12 aboriginal, prehistoric, or historic site; provided, however, that except for human remains
13 and burial objects, this paragraph shall not apply to: ~~the~~

14 (A) The collecting of artifacts exposed on the surface of dry land; or

15 (B) The collecting of isolated submerged finds such as artifacts that have become
16 displaced from their archeological context because of erosion or water currents, so long
17 as the collection of such isolated submerged finds is reported to the department in such
18 manner as specified by the department;"

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

20 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
21 without such approval.

22 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 3.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.