

House Bill 881

By: Representatives Porter of the 119th and Oliver of the 56th, Post 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 12-5-23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 powers and duties of the Board of Natural Resources and the director of the Environmental
3 Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources as to the control of water
4 pollution and surface-water use generally, so as to provide that any time the director learns
5 that any waters of the state are unsafe for recreation that includes contact with the water, he
6 or she shall cause signage to be erected; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 12-5-23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the powers and
10 duties of the Board of Natural Resources and the director of the Environmental Protection
11 Division of the Department of Natural Resources as to the control of water pollution and
12 surface-water use generally, is amended by striking in its entirety paragraph (9) of subsection
13 (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14 "(9) Establish or revise standards of water purity for any of the waters of this state, which
15 specify the maximum degree of pollution permissible in accordance with the public interest
16 in water supply; the conservation of fish, game, and aquatic life; and agricultural,
17 industrial, and recreational uses. Any time the director learns that any waters of the state
18 cannot be safely used for swimming and other recreation that includes contact with the
19 water, he or she shall cause to be erected signage sufficient to warn the public of such fact.
20 Prior to establishing or revising the standards of water purity, the division shall consider
21 the technical means available for the reduction of pollution and the economic factors
22 involved;"

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.