

The House Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs offers the following substitute to HB 724:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 12-6-24 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 providing notice of timber harvesting operations, so as to change certain provisions relating  
3 to effect on local regulation of timber harvesting operations; to provide an effective date; to  
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 12-6-24 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to providing notice  
8 of timber harvesting operations, is amended by striking subsection (e) in its entirety and  
9 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "(e)(1) No county, municipality, or other political subdivision in this state shall require  
11 any person or firm harvesting standing timber therein for delivery as pulpwood, logs,  
12 poles, posts, or wood chips to any woodyard or processing plant located inside or outside  
13 this state to provide any notice of or plan or security for such harvesting or hauling of  
14 forest products except as provided by this Code section.

15 (2) No county, municipality, or other political subdivision in this state shall require any  
16 person or firm harvesting standing timber therein for delivery as pulpwood, logs, poles,  
17 posts, or wood chips to any woodyard or processing plant located inside or outside this  
18 state to obtain any permit for such harvesting or hauling of forest products, including  
19 without limitation any permit for any new driveway in connection with timber harvesting  
20 operations; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not otherwise limit the authority  
21 of a county or municipality to regulate roads or streets under its jurisdiction in accordance  
22 with Title 32.

23 (3) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall not preclude  
24 counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions from enacting and enforcing tree  
25 ordinances, landscape ordinances, or streamside buffer ordinances; provided, however,  
26 such ordinances shall not apply to timber harvesting as described in subparagraph (A) of

1 paragraph (4) of this subsection or in unzoned tracts as described in subparagraph (B) of  
2 paragraph (4) of this subsection.

3 (4)(A) The limitations on the regulatory authority of counties, municipalities, or other  
4 political subdivisions provided by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection shall  
5 apply only to timber harvesting operations which qualify as forestry land management  
6 practices or agricultural operations under Code Section 12-7-17, not incidental to  
7 development, on tracts which are zoned for or used for forestry, silvicultural, or  
8 agricultural purposes.

9 (B) The limitations on the regulatory authority of counties, municipalities, or other  
10 political subdivisions provided by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection shall  
11 also apply to tracts which are unzoned."

12 **SECTION 2.**

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

15 **SECTION 3.**

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