

House Bill 1103

By: Representatives Royal of the 140th, Coleman of the 118th, Sims of the 130th, and Borders of the 142nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 48-5-7.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to bona
2 fide conservation use property, so as to provide for notification of impending expiration of
3 covenants regarding such property; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

6 Code Section 48-5-7.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to bona fide
7 conservation use property, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting in its place a
8 new subsection (d) to read as follows:

9 "(d) No property shall qualify for current use assessment under this Code section unless
10 and until the owner of such property agrees by covenant with the appropriate taxing
11 authority to maintain the eligible property in bona fide qualifying use for a period of ten
12 years beginning on the first day of January of the year in which such property qualifies for
13 such current use assessment and ending on the last day of December of the final year of the
14 covenant period. After the owner has applied for and has been allowed current use
15 assessment provided for in this Code section, it shall not be necessary to make application
16 thereafter for any year in which the covenant period is in effect and current use assessment
17 shall continue to be allowed such owner as specified in this Code section. At least 60 days
18 prior to the expiration date of the covenant, the county board of tax assessors shall send by
19 first-class mail written notification of such impending expiration. Upon the expiration of
20 any covenant period, the property shall not qualify for further current use assessment under
21 this Code section unless and until the owner of the property has entered into a renewal
22 covenant for an additional period of ten years; provided, however, that the owner may enter
23 into a renewal contract in the ninth year of a covenant period so that the contract is
24 continued without a lapse for an additional ten years."

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SECTION 2.

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.