

Senate Bill 505

By: Senators Thompson of the 33rd and Meyer von Bremen of the 12th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 36-22-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions concerning community greenspace preservation, so as to include land used as or
3 dedicated for use as a cemetery within the definition of greenspace; to provide for related
4 matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Code Section 36-22-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
8 concerning community greenspace preservation, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and
9 inserting in lieu thereof a new paragraph (3) to read as follows:

10 "(3) 'Greenspace' means permanently protected land and water, including agricultural and
11 forestry land, that is in its undeveloped, natural state or that has been developed only to
12 the extent consistent with, or is restored to be consistent with, one or more of the
13 following goals:

- 14 (A) Water quality protection for rivers, streams, and lakes;
- 15 (B) Flood protection;
- 16 (C) Wetlands protection;
- 17 (D) Reduction of erosion through protection of steep slopes, areas with erodible soils,
18 and stream banks;
- 19 (E) Protection of riparian buffers and other areas that serve as natural habitat and
20 corridors for native plant and animal species;
- 21 (F) Scenic protection;
- 22 (G) Protection of archaeological and historic resources;
- 23 (H) Provision of recreation in the form of boating, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting,
24 running, jogging, biking, walking, and similar outdoor activities; and

1 (I) Connection of existing or planned areas contributing to the goals set out in this
2 paragraph.

3 Greenspace shall also include land that is used as or is dedicated for use as a cemetery."

4 **SECTION 2.**

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

7 **SECTION 3.**

8 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.