

Senate Bill 624

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the promotion of marine research and industrial activities, so as to provide that the  
3 Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism is authorized to acquire, construct, operate,  
4 maintain, expand, and improve certain projects for the promotion of marine research, general  
5 industrial activities, trade, commerce, industry, and employment opportunities within the  
6 state; to authorize the department to convey and lease real and personal property under  
7 certain conditions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
12 promotion of marine research and industrial activities, is amended by inserting at the end  
13 thereof a new Code section to read as follows:

14 "50-7-31.

15 (a) The Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism is authorized to acquire, construct,  
16 operate, maintain, expand, and improve one or more projects for the promotion of marine  
17 research, general industrial activities, trade, commerce, industry, and employment  
18 opportunities within the state for the public good and general welfare and, without limiting  
19 the foregoing, to acquire land for such purposes with the approval of the State Properties  
20 Commission, such land to be titled to the state with administrative custody in the  
21 Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism.

22 (b) The Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism shall have the authority, with the  
23 approval of the State Properties Commission, to lease or convey any improved or  
24 unimproved real property or personal property acquired by it pursuant to this article to any  
25 public or private entity and to any individual for a term not to exceed 50 years. Any such  
26 lease or conveyance shall be upon such terms as the department deems necessary and

1 convenient for the promotion of marine research and business and industrial expansion in  
2 the state under all the circumstances. Consideration for any such lease shall be consistent  
3 with Article III, Section VI, Paragraph VI of the Constitution of Georgia and may be for  
4 and in consideration of a minimum of \$100.00 annually for each calendar year or portion  
5 of a calendar year paid in kind to the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services and may  
6 arrange for the conveyance of such land for a fixed price, provided that such property be  
7 held, constructed, operated, maintained, expanded, or improved by the grantee, its  
8 successors, and its assigns as shall be consistent with the purposes of this article and other  
9 requirements of the department."

10 **SECTION 2.**

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