

## Senate Resolution 560

By: Senators Williams of the 19th, Chapman of the 3rd and Johnson of the 1st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Governor Sonny Perdue to appoint a Blue Ribbon committee to review all aspects  
2 of initiatives at Jekyll Island relating to resource stewardship, tourism infrastructure,  
3 economic development, land management, and future needs and concerns of the island; and  
4 for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Jekyll Island was purchased in 1947 by then-Governor Melvin E. Thompson  
6 through condemnation proceedings for \$675,000.00 and formally opened as a state park in  
7 March of 1948; and

8 WHEREAS, the Jekyll Island State Park Authority was established in 1950 with island  
9 access being mainly by boat until a drawbridge was completed in 1954; and

10 WHEREAS, today the island serves more than 1.3 million visitors a year who visit the beach,  
11 attend conferences, spend more than \$27 million to occupy rooms at the island's ten hotels,  
12 play 85,000 rounds of golf on the beautiful golf courses totaling 63 holes, shop at many of  
13 the local shops, generate more than \$5 million in sales taxes annually, and generate a local  
14 economic impact of more than \$168 million a year; and

15 WHEREAS, more than 600 residential leases exist on the island plus 16 retail leases and ten  
16 hotel leases along with 15 miscellaneous leases for such facilities as restaurants, churches,  
17 harbor marinas, cable, and telephones; and

18 WHEREAS, state law requires that no more than 35 percent of the island can ever be  
19 developed in order to ensure that the island's natural, historical, and cultural significance be  
20 protected; and

21 WHEREAS, Jekyll Island needs to receive special attention and have all existing plans  
22 reviewed and updated through a comprehensive planning initiative that will assess all aspects  
23 of the island's resource management programs, stewardship, improvement to tourism,

1 hospitality, and environmental infrastructure, consideration of economic development needs  
2 and land use planning consistent with Code Section 12-3-243 of the O.C.G.A., which  
3 pertains to the percentage of the island to be preserved from development.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body hereby urges  
5 Governor Sonny Perdue to appoint a Blue Ribbon panel consisting of a cross section of  
6 business people, legislators, and other appropriate citizens to undertake a thorough review  
7 of Jekyll Island that will recommend necessary long-term, strategic actions designed to  
8 positively impact the operation, maintenance, development, revitalization, resource  
9 stewardship, preservation, and conservation of this island gem in order to ensure it best  
10 serves the people of Georgia and visitors to our state.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report of this panel should be completed in time for  
12 consideration to be given to its recommendations prior to the 2006 convening of the General  
13 Assembly.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
15 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Governor Sonny Perdue.