

Senate Bill 492

By: Senators Pearson of the 51st, Balfour of the 9th, Seabaugh of the 28th, Wiles of the 37th and Rogers of the 21st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to conservation and
2 natural resources, so as to provide that local governments shall not be denied state funding
3 or water withdrawal permits because of failure to adopt stricter than minimum standards for
4 certain stream or reservoir buffers; to change certain provisions relating to minimum
5 standards and procedures for protection of river corridors, streams, and reservoirs; to change
6 certain provisions relating to model ordinances for effective storm-water management in the
7 Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and for a district-wide watershed
8 management plan, annual review, public meetings, certification by director, and local
9 compliance; to change certain provisions relating to best management practices regarding
10 land-disturbing activities; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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SECTION 1.

14 Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to conservation and natural
15 resources, is amended by striking subsection (d) of Code Section 12-2-8, relating to
16 minimum standards and procedures for protection of river corridors, streams, and reservoirs,
17 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

18 "(d) The minimum standards and procedures for watershed protection referred to in
19 subsection (b) of this Code section shall specifically include, but shall not be limited to,
20 buffer areas along streams and reservoirs, land development densities, and land use
21 activities. The department may adopt differing minimum standards and procedures of
22 watershed protection based on the size of the watershed, the size or flow volume of the
23 stream or reservoir, and whether or not the actual use of the municipal water supply is
24 existing or proposed; provided, however, that no local government shall be denied any state
25 grants or loans for any purpose or any water withdrawal permit under Chapter 5 of this title
26 because of the local government's failure to adopt rules, regulations, or ordinances which
27 contain buffers that exceed those required under any such minimum standards."

