

House Bill 1211

By: Representatives Reese of the 98th, Lane of the 158th, Ralston of the 7th, Holt of the 112th, Crawford of the 127th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to state symbols, so as to designate the Southern Appalachian brook trout as the
3 official state cold water game fish; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related
4 matters; 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 The General Assembly finds and determines that:

8 (1) The Southern Appalachian brook trout is one of nature's most exquisite forms of art
9 with its brilliant colors and intricate patterns;

10 (2) The Southern Appalachian brook trout makes its home in the clean, cold, crystal clear
11 waters of the North Georgia mountains and is Georgia's only native Salmonid species;

12 (3) Throughout our state's history, our citizens have prized the Southern Appalachian
13 brook trout for its tasty flesh and plentiful numbers;

14 (4) Over the past century, however, extensive logging has decimated brook trout waters
15 through sedimentation and erosion of habitat and, when nonnative trout were stocked to
16 replace lost populations, the brook trout could not compete and were driven to higher
17 elevation streams where they remain today;

18 (5) The brook trout is also subject to harm today from acid rain that is deposited in the
19 high mountains and ridges of our state from air pollution;

20 (6) The protection of the Southern Appalachian brook trout has become a major
21 conservation concern and the inclusion of the Southern Appalachian brook trout in our
22 official state symbols list could possibly contribute to the efforts to protect this
23 magnificent state natural resource;

24 (7) The Southern Appalachian brook trout is an excellent indicator of water and air
25 quality and declines in their numbers can serve as early warning signs that environmental
26 conditions may be deteriorating in our watersheds; and

1 (8) Establishing an official state cold water game fish is necessary to fully recognize our
2 diverse wildlife and the Southern Appalachian brook trout is deserving of the attention
3 and appreciation of the citizens of this state by designation as the official state cold water
4 fish.

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state
7 symbols, is amended by adding a new Code Section 50-3-82 to read as follows:

8 "50-3-82.

9 The Southern Appalachian brook trout is designated as the official Georgia cold water
10 game fish."

11 **SECTION 3.**

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