

## House Resolution 1226

By: Representatives Lane of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup>, Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Parrish of the 156<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Authorizing and directing the Department of Natural Resources to initiate a "Georgia Quail  
2 Trail" and creating the Georgia Quail Trail Advisory Council; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the bobwhite quail, Georgia's state game bird and known also as the "Prince  
4 of Game Birds," is one of the most recognized and popular natural symbols of this state, and  
5 quail hunting in Georgia is a time-honored tradition; and

6 WHEREAS, supporting the quail hunting industry in this state provides jobs in and supports  
7 recreation, tourism, retail sales, timber production, and agricultural sectors, and the economic  
8 multiplier effect of quail hunting is paramount to the success of both rural and urban service  
9 sectors in Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, promoting quail hunting provides benefits to other game and nongame species  
11 dependent on quality bobwhite quail habitat and validates the need to protect and conserve  
12 wildlife habitat critical to bobwhite quail and other species; and

13 WHEREAS, initiating a "Georgia Quail Trail" program that will link hunters to quail hunting  
14 opportunities in this state by identifying, showcasing, and promoting quail hunting venues  
15 and opportunities in this state will sustain and expand the economic benefits of quail hunting  
16 in this state and provide additional business, hunting, recreational, and educational  
17 opportunities; and

18 WHEREAS, initiating a "Georgia Quail Trail" program will also support the Georgia  
19 Bobwhite Quail Initiative, which is a voluntary and experimental program to restore quality  
20 early successional habitat for bobwhite quail and other wildlife, improve water quality, and  
21 reduce soil erosion and which was developed by the Board of Natural Resources in  
22 consultation with key members of the General Assembly and implemented by the Wildlife  
23 Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

3 **SECTION 1.**

4 The Department of Natural Resources is authorized and directed to initiate not later than June  
5 30, 2007, a "Georgia Quail Trail" program that will link hunters to quail hunting  
6 opportunities in this state by identifying, showcasing, and promoting quail hunting venues  
7 and opportunities in this state, subject to funds being available to the department for such  
8 purposes.

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 There is created the Georgia Quail Trail Advisory Council in order to establish and identify  
11 quail hunting industry needs and advise how to best meet the demand for linking hunters to  
12 quail hunting opportunities in this state. The council shall consist of 12 members. Two of  
13 the members of the council shall include the chairperson of the Senate Economic  
14 Development Committee or his or her designee and the chairperson the House Committee  
15 on Game, Fish, and Parks or his or her designee, each of whom shall serve as co-chairs of  
16 the council. Each co-chair shall appoint five additional councilmembers, for a total of ten  
17 appointed members consisting of two appointees from each of the five following entities,  
18 organizations, or groups: the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural  
19 Resources, the Department of Economic Development, the Georgia chapter of Quail  
20 Unlimited (one member from the northern part of this state and one member from the  
21 southern part of this state), the Georgia Wildlife Federation, and active quail hunting  
22 industries and related services. Such appointments shall be made not later than 45 days after  
23 this resolution becomes effective, and the first meeting of the council shall be held not later  
24 than 75 days after this resolution becomes effective. The council may conduct such meetings  
25 at such times and places as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully  
26 and effectively perform its duties and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this  
27 resolution. Neither the legislative members of the council nor private individuals shall  
28 receive any compensation for their service on the council. Members of the council who are  
29 state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall receive no  
30 compensation for their services on the council, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses  
31 incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the council in the same  
32 manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.  
33 The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than  
34 legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise  
35 available to their respective departments. In the event the council makes a report of its

1 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation or measures for  
2 economic development and tourism, if any, such report shall be made on or before August  
3 1, 2006. The council shall stand abolished on December 1, 2006.

4 **SECTION 3.**

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