

Senate Resolution 123

By: Senators Hawkins of the 49th, Murphy of the 27th, Pearson of the 51st, Unterman of the 45th, Moody of the 56th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 To urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers to begin a study of the costs and effects
- 2 of raising the full pool for Lake Lanier from 1,071 feet above sea level to 1,073 feet above
- 3 sea level; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, as growth and prosperity continue to evolve in Georgia, the demand for water
- 5 continues to be a major focus item for Georgia executives and stakeholders; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the situation is exacerbated by the tri-states negotiations among Georgia,
- 7 Florida, and Alabama that have been in debate for over 15 years; and
- 8 WHEREAS, whenever a drought occurs, the problem becomes even more severe; and
- 9 WHEREAS, additional water supplies would help ameliorate the problem, but new reservoirs
- 10 are extremely expensive and there is no readily available location in Georgia for new storage
- 11 capability; and
- 12 WHEREAS, raising the full pool level of Lake Lanier from 1,071 feet above sea level to
- 13 1,073 feet above sea level would increase the available water supply by 25 billion gallons,
- 14 which would be larger than Lake Seminole on the Georgia-Florida border; and
- 15 WHEREAS, this increase could be managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers
- 16 by simply allowing Lake Lanier to increase as weather and rainfall permits above the present
- 17 full pool level to 1,073 feet above sea level; and
- 18 WHEREAS, this increased supply will assist in the managed economic growth of the State
- 19 of Georgia and will provide an additional storage buffer in the case of drought situations that
- 20 could be used for assisting valid requests from Florida for additional water for endangered
- 21 species; and

1 WHEREAS, additional water supply for Georgia will help answer additional water needs as
2 growth in population and prosperity puts requirements on more water throughout the state;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the costs of such action are minimal compared to any newly created reservoir
5 and could be implemented in 12 to 18 months, whereas a new and costly reservoir could take
6 a decade or longer.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
8 urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers to begin a study of the costs and effects of
9 raising the full pool of Lake Lanier from 1,071 feet above sea level to 1,073 feet above sea
10 level.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
12 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the United States Army Corps of
13 Engineers and each member of the Georgia Congressional delegation.