

## House Resolution 271

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Jamieson of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Buckner of the 130<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the objection of the House of Representatives to any changes from the current  
2 status as to the selection of supervisors of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and for  
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, some 370 Georgians, from all walks of life, voluntarily serve as supervisors of  
5 the state's 40 Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and

6 WHEREAS, this service by these citizens is of immense value to the state and its people,  
7 preserving the soils of productive farmland and the quality of the water in the state's lakes  
8 and streams by preventing sediment from washing into them; and

9 WHEREAS, 195 of the supervisors are elected, and these elected supervisors in each district  
10 recommend the 175 supervisors to be appointed by the State Soil and Water Conservation  
11 Commission; and it is this method of selection that makes each Soil and Water Conservation  
12 District supervisor a devoted advocate to the citizens of his or her district, providing the  
13 unique people's component of the districts; and

14 WHEREAS, at least one supervisor in each county in the state is elected by the people of that  
15 county; and

16 WHEREAS, a decision has been made by the State Soil and Water Conservation  
17 Commission to change the status of district supervisors in the state to an all appointed  
18 supervisor system; and

19 WHEREAS, the elected Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors from several  
20 populous counties in the state have objected to a proposal to change the status of these  
21 members; and

1 WHEREAS, these protesting elected and appointed district supervisors were selected by the  
2 voters and Soil and Water Conservation District Boards composed of their fellow citizens,  
3 and they take pride in the confidence expressed by their fellow citizens in their work; and

4 WHEREAS, changing the status of these supervisors removes the right of people to choose  
5 their district elected officials; and

6 WHEREAS, the selection of Georgians as district supervisors has been embodied in the law,  
7 now codified at Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
8 since enactment of the Act that created the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Georgia  
9 in 1937.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
11 it is the sentiment of this House that it objects to any change in the manner of selecting both  
12 by election and appointment these dedicated members of local Soil and Water Conservation  
13 District Boards.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
15 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to each member of the State Soil  
16 and Water Conservation Commission.