

Senate Resolution 439

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Tate of the 38th, Butler of the 55th and Brown of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the elected Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors from several
19 populous counties in the state have objected to a proposal to change the status of these
20 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 SENATE that it is the sentiment of the
11 Senate that it objects to any change in the manner of selecting both by election and
12 appointment these dedicated members of local Soil and Water Conservation District Boards.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
14 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to each member of the State Soil and Water
15 Conservation Commission.