

House Bill 1088 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE) (AM)

By: Representatives Parrish of the 156<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 4<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 129<sup>th</sup>, Channell of the 116<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Department of Economic Development, so as to provide for the designation of "agricultural  
3 tourist attractions"; to provide legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide that  
4 the Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Department of Transportation post  
5 directional signs for agricultural tourist attractions; to provide for rules and regulations; to  
6 amend Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
7 relating to the state highway system, so as to provide for directional signs for agricultural  
8 tourist attractions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
9 purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department  
13 of Economic Development, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

14 style="text-align:center">"ARTICLE 6

15 50-7-70.

16 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

17 (1) Agricultural tourist attractions provide unique opportunities for tourists to enjoy  
18 Georgia's resources; and

19 (2) Agricultural tourist attractions provide an impact on Georgia's economy and a  
20 substantial benefit to Georgia.

21 (b) As used in this Code section, the term:

22 (1) 'Agricultural tourist attraction' means any agricultural based business providing onsite  
23 attractions to tourists that meet the criteria set out by the Department of Agriculture.

24 (2) 'Department' means the Department of Agriculture.

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- 1 (3) 'Directional signs' shall have the meaning provided in paragraph (4) of Code Section  
2 32-6-71.
- 3 (c) The Department of Agriculture shall:
- 4 (1) Develop criteria and an application process to determine what constitutes an  
5 agricultural tourist attraction; and
- 6 (2) Maintain a registry of approved agricultural tourist attractions.
- 7 (d) Entities wishing to be recognized by the department as an agricultural tourist attraction  
8 shall submit an application to the department with a one time application fee of up to \$250  
9 dollars.
- 10 (e) Upon approval by the department as an agricultural tourist attraction and at the request  
11 of the applicant, the department shall, in conjunction with the Department of  
12 Transportation, take the appropriate steps to place directional signs along roads in the direct  
13 proximity of the agricultural tourist attraction to direct passing traffic to the agricultural  
14 tourist attraction.
- 15 (f) The department and the Department of Transportation shall create rules and regulations  
16 for the purpose of implementing this Code section."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
19 relating to the state highway system, is amended by inserting "or" at the end of paragraph  
20 (10) and by revising paragraph (11) of Code Section 32-6-76, relating to restrictions on  
21 directional signs generally, as follows:

22 "(11) Advertises privately owned activities or attractions other than natural phenomena,  
23 scenic attractions, historic, educational, cultural, scientific, and religious sites,  
24 agricultural tourist attractions designated by the Department of Agriculture, and outdoor  
25 recreational areas and which are nationally or regionally known and are of outstanding  
26 interest to the traveling public, as determined by the State Transportation Board."

27 **SECTION 3.**

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