

House Resolution 1630

By: Representatives Dukes of the 150th, Reece of the 11th, Greene of the 149th, Shaw of the 176th, Parrish of the 156th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Natural Resources to reconsider the decision to sell hunting and
2 fishing licenses via an Internet, web based licensing system; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, resident Georgia hunting and fishing licenses have been available throughout
4 this state from approximately 1,100 licensing agents in many sporting goods stores, marinas,
5 bait and tackle stores, hardware stores, and other private places of business, and most license
6 dealers have also sold nonresident licenses; and

7 WHEREAS, the ability of such businesses to sell licenses on their premises in many cases
8 leads to concurrent retail sales of other goods and services by such businesses when license
9 applicants enter those places of business; and

10 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division is
11 adopting a real-time, web based licensing system by outsourcing licensing services to Capital
12 Bank in Missouri; and

13 WHEREAS, the *Macon Telegraph* has quoted Todd Holbrook, assistant director of the
14 Wildlife Resources Division, as stating that this state has been averaging 800,000 to 850,000
15 licensing transactions annually, but that he thinks the new system will change the buying
16 habits of hunters and fishermen; and that instead of going to the store to purchase a fishing
17 license in the spring, then a hunting license just before dove season, and then a big game
18 license for deer season, they will buy them all at once via the new system; and

19 WHEREAS, such new licensing system is likely to have significant, detrimental economic
20 effects on current store based licensing agents, especially "mom-and-pop" stores and bait
21 shops, due to the need for such stores and shops to purchase computers, printers, and
22 high-speed Internet service if they wish to access the new system, which many may not be
23 able to afford; and

1 WHEREAS, some have estimated that the loss of store based licensing agencies may leave
2 up to 56 of Georgia's 159 counties without a single local licensing agent for walk-in
3 customers, whereas at present, there are only five counties without at least one; and

4 WHEREAS, such web based licensing system will also result in increased costs to persons
5 purchasing hunting and fishing licenses due to an added \$2.75 transaction fee imposed for
6 purchasing licenses through such system; and

7 WHEREAS, such add-on transaction fees will go to Capital Bank and its partners,
8 Infospherix and Automated Licensing Systems, and it is detrimental to Georgia's economy
9 to unnecessarily send millions of dollars out of state.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
11 the members of this body urge the Department of Natural Resources to reconsider the
12 decision to sell hunting and fishing licenses via an Internet, web based licensing system.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
14 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Natural
15 Resources and the Governor.