

## House Resolution 1856

By: Representatives Cheokas of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Lane of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Barnard of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup>, Knight of the 126<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the State Board of Education to provide for a course of instruction for students in  
2 grades nine through 12 in Hunting, Fishing, and Nature Appreciation; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, and the appreciation of the great outdoors are an important part  
4 of Georgia's history, culture, and economy; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia has experienced a dramatic decline in the issuance of hunting and  
6 fishing licenses; and

7 WHEREAS, the children of this state in increasing and alarming numbers are experiencing,  
8 obesity, heart conditions, and a general reduction in exercise; and

9 WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that hunter safety education for young persons and  
10 first time hunters reduces the rate of hunting related accidents by 25 percent, and other states  
11 have adopted legislation authorizing hunting safety and education courses for high school  
12 students; and

13 WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, and nature appreciation courses are designed to teach hunting  
14 safety, principles of conservation, and sportsmanship, and such instruction may help prepare  
15 a student for a career in public safety or natural resources where there are critical shortages  
16 of trained personnel; and

17 WHEREAS, offering a course on hunting safety provides a physical education option to  
18 persons who may otherwise be unable to participate in physical sports or outdoor school  
19 activities due to physical limitations or disabilities; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia's children should be given an opportunity to develop an appreciation  
21 for the natural wonders of Georgia and be encouraged to experience the beauty of nature, and

1 consistent with this goal the General Assembly should adopt the moto, "NO CHILD LEFT  
2 INSIDE."

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
4 the opportunity to participate in a hunting, fishing, and nature appreciation course should be  
5 offered to students in public schools in grades nine or above, and the State Board of  
6 Education should make available to eligible students in grades nine through 12 an elective  
7 course on Hunting, Fishing, and Nature Appreciation for the purpose of fulfilling a  
8 prescribed course of study in physical education or as an elective course. Such course should  
9 be established in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

10 (1) No later than July 1, 2008, the State Board of Education should adopt a curriculum  
11 for the course on Hunting, Fishing, and Nature Appreciation, including objectives,  
12 reading materials, and lesson plans, which has been prepared in accordance with the  
13 requirements of this Code section and in consultation with the Department of Natural  
14 Resources;

15 (2) The topics to be included in the course on Hunting, Fishing, and Nature Appreciation  
16 should include an outdoor survival information and techniques; knowledge of Georgia  
17 fauna and animal life; an increased awareness of available outdoor opportunities in  
18 Georgia for hunting, fishing, and nature appreciation in Georgia parks and recreation  
19 areas; a study of laws and regulations related to hunting and fishing; and the safe use of  
20 firearms and bows;

21 (3) Each public high school in this state should include such course of study for its  
22 students at a minimum of once each year; and

23 (4) On and after July 1, 2008, for the purpose of earning Carnegie unit curriculum credits  
24 at the high school level, satisfactory completion of a course on Hunting, Fishing, and  
25 Nature Appreciation should be accepted by the State Board of Education for one-half unit  
26 of elective credit or physical education credit, and satisfactory completion of the course  
27 on Hunting, Fishing, and Nature Appreciation should be accepted by the State Board of  
28 Education for one-half unit of elective credit or physical education credit.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the School Superintendent  
31 for the State of Georgia, the State Board of Education, and the Governor.