

Senate Resolution 1486

By: Senator Williams of the 19th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Expressing the need for members of the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force to develop
2 specific recommendations to help manage the invasive plants that cause irreparable economic
3 and environmental damage to the State of Georgia.
- 4 WHEREAS, invasive plants take over natural areas and parks, displacing native plant
5 communities and wildlife; and
- 6 WHEREAS, invasive plants reduce land available for recreational use such as hiking,
7 camping, fishing, and hunting; and
- 8 WHEREAS, invasive plants cause large economic losses, including losses of productivity
9 in forestry and agriculture; and
- 10 WHEREAS, invasive plants, if left uncontrolled, can and will limit land use now and into the
11 future; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the longer we ignore the invasive species problem, the harder and more
13 expensive the battle for control will become; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and cooperating organizations
15 have completed a guidance document known as the "Georgia Invasive Species Strategy"; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, State Forestry Commission, Georgia
17 Department of Natural Resources, and University of Georgia have entered into a
18 Memorandum of Understanding to formally establish the Georgia Invasive Species Task
19 Force.
- 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body:

21 (1) Request that representatives of the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force convene a
22 meeting of interested parties including representatives of green industry, conservation and
23 environmental organizations, and forestry and agricultural interests;

24 (2) Request that this group of interested parties so convened recommend specific actions,
25 both legislative and nonlegislative, designed to prevent and control the proliferation of
26 these invasive plant species; and

27 (3) Request that the group of interested parties report such recommendations to the
28 Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Commissioner
29 of Agriculture; director of the State Forestry Commission; commissioner of natural
30 resources; chairperson of the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee;
31 and chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment by
32 December 31, 2010.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force.