

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to HR 1994:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Damages for Conversion of Timber and Property
2 Law Modernization and Standardization for Surveying; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's property law as it concerns the establishment of boundaries and
4 surveying and its rules, regulations, and conduct has been determined to be in need of
5 modernization and standardization; and

6 WHEREAS, the use of processioning is outdated, and the law needs to be modernized to
7 encompass current practices; and

8 WHEREAS, under state law, damages for the conversion of timber by a willful trespasser
9 is limited to the market value of the timber unlawfully taken; and

10 WHEREAS, while there is ample anecdotal evidence that the conversion of timber is a
11 problem in this state, there are no official estimates of the size of the problem; and

12 WHEREAS, a review is needed to consider reporting procedures for conversion of timber
13 so information will be readily available; and

14 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to bring together surveyors, real estate lawyers, title
15 companies, and other interested parties in Georgia to determine how Georgia property law
16 may be updated to best serve the citizens of Georgia and to consider the need to increase the
17 penalty for timber theft.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 there is created the House Study Committee on Damages for Conversion of Timber and
20 Property Law Modernization and Standardization for Surveying to be composed of five
21 members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of

22 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of
23 the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
25 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
26 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
27 conduct two meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
28 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
29 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. In the event the committee makes
30 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if
31 any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2010. The committee shall stand
32 abolished on December 15, 2010.