

House Bill 603

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52nd, Lane of the 158th, Hill of the 21st, and Lindsey of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so
2 as to define a term; to change certain provisions relating to taking of nongame species; to
3 regulate the taking, possession, transportation, farming, and selling of fresh-water turtles; to
4 provide for rules and regulations; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended in
8 Code Section 27-1-2, relating to definitions, by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:
9 "(29.2) 'Fresh-water turtle' means any turtle or its eggs within the families Chelydridae,
10 Emydidae (excluding Malaclemys terrapin and Terrapene carolina), Kinosternidae, and
11 Trionychidae."

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

13 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 27-1-28, relating to
14 taking of nongame species, as follows:

15 "(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, rule, or regulation, it shall be unlawful to hunt,
16 trap, fish, take, possess, or transport any nongame species of wildlife, except that the
17 following species may be taken by any method except those specifically prohibited by law
18 or regulation:

- 19 (1) Rats;
- 20 (2) Mice;
- 21 (3) Coyotes;
- 22 (4) Armadillos;
- 23 (5) Groundhogs;
- 24 (6) Beaver;
- 25 (7) ~~Fresh-water turtles~~ Reserved;

- 26 (8) Poisonous snakes;
27 (9) Frogs;
28 (10) Spring lizards;
29 (11) Fiddler crabs;
30 (12) Fresh-water crayfish;
31 (13) Fresh-water mussels; and
32 (14) Nutria."

33 **SECTION 3.**

34 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

35 "27-3-19.1.

36 (a) It shall be unlawful to possess any fresh-water turtle except a fresh-water turtle
37 obtained from a private pond with the consent of the owner of such pond or as otherwise
38 authorized by the rules and regulations of the board.

39 (b) It shall be unlawful to transport, farm, or sell any fresh-water turtle or part thereof
40 except in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the board.

41 (c) As the board deems appropriate for purposes of this Code section, it may promulgate
42 such rules and regulations as are reasonable and necessary under sound wildlife
43 management practices."

44 **SECTION 4.**

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