

House Bill 693

By: Representatives Drenner of the 86th, Barnard of the 166th, Hugley of the 133rd, Buckner of the 130th, Gardner of the 57th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to control of water pollution and surface water use, so as to provide for the "Adopt
3 a Water Body" program; to define a term; to provide for identifying signs; to provide an
4 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 control of water pollution and surface water use, is amended by adding a new Code section
9 to read as follows:

10 "12-5-23.4.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'public waters' means those surface waters to
12 which the state has rights as a riparian landowner.

13 (b) The division shall develop a program to be known as 'Adopt a Water Body,' whereby,
14 for the sole purpose of controlling litter, a business or a private civic organization may
15 adopt a portion of any public waters. Included in the responsibilities of any business or
16 private civic organization that chooses to participate in the program shall be the following:

17 (1) Development of a functional plan to influence and encourage the public to improve
18 the appearance of the adopted portion of public waters;

19 (2) A general cleanup of the area at least twice a year; and

20 (3) Assistance to the division in securing media coverage for the program.

21 (c) Any business or private civic organization which adopts a portion of a public waters
22 may place a sign identifying the organization on the right of way of any interstate highway
23 or state highway within two hundred feet of the adopted public waters, upon approval of
24 the Department of Transportation and in accordance with rules and regulations thereof. If
25 the riparian land is not a highway right of way under the control of the Department of

26 Transportation, then such a sign may be placed on a bank of the adopted public waters,
27 upon approval of the state department or agency having control of such land."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 This Act shall become effective on the first day of the month following the month in which
30 it is approved by the Governor or becomes law without such approval.

31 **SECTION 3.**

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