

## Senate Resolution 228

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Bethel of the 54th, Gooch of the 51st, Loudermilk of the 52nd and Rogers of the 21st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the performance of a feasibility study of the withdrawal, storage, and distribution of  
2 waters from a certain portion of the Tennessee River basin; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the need to develop alternative sources of water supply and storage for much  
4 of Georgia is an issue of considerable urgency, particularly in light of a decision by the  
5 United States District Court entered in 2009 which found that communities in Georgia now  
6 dependent on the waters of Lake Lanier for water supply may no longer depend on that  
7 supply after 2012, absent a settlement among the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Lookout Creek in Dade County, Chattanooga Creek in Walker County, and  
10 West Chickamauga and South Chickamauga Creeks in Catoosa County have, by some  
11 estimates, combined flows of at least 130 million gallons per day during eight months of the  
12 year and at least 80 million gallons per day during four months of the year, all of which flow  
13 northward into the Tennessee River; and

14 WHEREAS, there also exist abandoned rock quarries in north Georgia that can and do fill  
15 with very large volumes of water, including one in Walker County that is reported to have  
16 a water storage capacity of at least 3 billion gallons (9,207 acre-feet) of water; and

17 WHEREAS, the right of way of a railroad, owned by the State of Georgia, passes through  
18 the property on which the Walker County quarry described above is located and runs  
19 southward to the vicinity of Rome; and

20 WHEREAS, it may be possible to withdraw water from such north-flowing tributaries which  
21 might otherwise go unused in this state, pump the water into such an abandoned quarry for  
22 storage, and distribute water from such storage by means of a pipeline to be laid on the  
23 railroad right of way and thence to areas of this state in need of additional water supplies.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
25 urge the Department of Natural Resources, the Water Supply Division of the Georgia  
26 Environmental Finance Authority, and private enterprises to study the feasibility of surface  
27 water withdrawal, storage, and distribution as described in this resolution.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
29 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the commissioner of natural resources and  
30 the director of the Water Supply Division of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority.