

## Senate Resolution 1162

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Henson of the 41st, Jones of the 10th, Fort of the 39th, Jackson of the 2nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Environmental Protection Division to develop a Toxic Use Reduction Strategy;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, every Georgia citizen has a right to a healthy and safe environment, which  
4 requires that our air, water, earth, food, and consumer products be of a sufficiently high  
5 standard of safety that individuals and communities can live healthy, fulfilling, and dignified  
6 lives; and

7 WHEREAS, historically, many environmentally harmful activities have been stopped only  
8 after they manifested extreme environmental degradation or exposed people to harm; and

9 WHEREAS, chemical safety laws in Georgia and the United States are long overdue for a  
10 transformation which would allow them to prevent, rather than permit, harm to human health  
11 and the environment; and

12 WHEREAS, the average American today has 116 chemicals in his or her body's blood or  
13 tissues, some of which are even present before birth; and

14 WHEREAS, of the more than 80,000 chemicals currently used in United States commerce,  
15 approximately 62,000 were grandfathered in by the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976  
16 (TSCA), even though only about 200 have ever been fully tested for their impacts on our  
17 health and the environment, and only five of those 62,000 chemicals have been banned under  
18 Section 6 of the TSCA, none since 1990; and

19 WHEREAS, recent resolutions in states and cities across the country encourage reform of  
20 chemical safety laws at the state and federal level; and

21 WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association (APHA) has recently suggested several  
22 strategies for reforming the TSCA, including requirements for greater disclosure by chemical

23 producers of use, hazard, and exposure information; hazard based assessment of all  
24 chemicals by the federal Environmental Protection Agency; phasing out the use of persistent,  
25 bioactive toxins; and stronger protections for workers exposed to chemicals; and

26 WHEREAS, the APHA has called on state legislatures to address chemicals policy at the  
27 state level for similar purposes and with similar goals; and

28 WHEREAS, citizens of Georgia have a right to know what chemicals and other toxic hazards  
29 are used, manufactured, transported, and released into their communities; and

30 WHEREAS, each community should have complete and accurate information on potential  
31 human health and environmental impacts associated with the selection of products, services,  
32 operations, or plans of industries, utilities, and government agencies; and

33 WHEREAS, certain technologies and practices are routinely assumed to be "innocent until  
34 proven guilty" with regard to harmful side effects, and such assumptions often allow  
35 irreversible harm to occur before action is taken; and

36 WHEREAS, producers and proponents should bear the burden of demonstrating and  
37 maintaining safety of consumer products, projects, and technologies, in part by conducting  
38 business with transparency at all levels and fully disclosing all product ingredients; and

39 WHEREAS, the ideal chemical safety policy would support innovation in the marketplace  
40 and provide incentives for the development of safer alternatives by putting new safer  
41 chemicals on the "fast track" to the market; and

42 WHEREAS, a law such as the proposed Safe Chemicals Act of 2011 would require the EPA  
43 to identify and restrict the "worst of the worst" chemicals, require basic health and safety  
44 information for all chemicals, and greatly reduce the burden of toxic chemical exposures on  
45 minorities and low-income communities.

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Environmental  
47 Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources is urged to develop a Toxic Use  
48 Reduction Strategy within one year of passage of this Resolution. The strategy should  
49 identify short-term and long-term goals for the reduction of toxic use in Georgia industries,  
50 utilities, and government operations; create a program to provide technical assistance and  
51 incentives to Georgia industries and utilities on toxic use reduction and to facilitate the

52 adoption of safer alternative products, processes, and technologies; and promote the  
53 examination of a full range of alternatives with an emphasis on selecting the alternative with  
54 the least potential impact on human health and the environment.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the Toxic Use Reduction Strategy, the  
56 evaluation of potential alternatives should consider all reasonably foreseeable costs,  
57 including raw materials, manufacturing, transportation, use, clean-up, disposal, and health  
58 costs, even if such costs are not reflected in the initial price. Short-term and long-term  
59 benefits and time thresholds should be considered when making decisions. Decisions should  
60 be transparent, part of a participatory process, and informed by the best available  
61 information.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Georgia is urged to develop a purchasing  
63 policy for goods and services which will simultaneously prevent and reduce the use of toxic  
64 chemicals and advance the use of safe and environmentally healthy chemicals in Georgia.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
66 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Environmental Protection Division  
67 of the Department of Natural Resources.