

House Bill 189

By: Representatives Buckner of the 137th, Stephens of the 164th, Jackson of the 128th, Epps of the 144th, Williams of the 168th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to parks, historic areas, memorials, and recreation generally, so as to require the
3 Department of Natural Resources to notify local governing authorities before making certain
4 significant changes in services at state parks, historic sites, or recreational areas located
5 within the area of the local governing authority; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 parks, historic areas, memorials, and recreation generally, is amended by adding a new Code
11 section to read as follows:

12 "12-3-12.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'change in services' means the:

14 (1) Permanent change of a primary existing operational function;

15 (2) Reduction by 50 percent or more of the hours of operation or services; or

16 (3) Closure

17 of any state park, historic site, or recreational area operated by or pursuant to the authority
18 of the department.

19 (b) Prior to making a change in services, the department shall provide 90 days' notice to
20 the governing authority of each municipality and county in which any part of the state park,
21 historic site, or recreational area is located regarding the specific proposed change in
22 services. The notice required by this Code section shall be made in writing and sent to the
23 applicable chairperson of the county commissioners and the mayor of the municipality."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.