

Senate Resolution 742

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Harper of the 7th and Tippins of the 37th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 16, 2014, as "Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the Capitol"; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of the most geographically and biologically diverse areas in the
4 nation with abundant plant and animal populations that provide its citizens with unrivaled
5 opportunities for recreation and commerce while also sustaining a quality of life that makes
6 the state a great place to live and work; and

7 WHEREAS, Coastal Georgia is a particularly unique part of this diverse state with a half
8 million acres of estuaries, 3,000 miles of tidal waterways, a chain of 14 barrier islands, and
9 300 square miles of open Atlantic Ocean; and

10 WHEREAS, Coastal Georgia produces fresh seafood – shrimp, blue crabs, fish, and oysters –
11 that is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike while also providing an estimated \$45 million
12 of economic impact; and

13 WHEREAS, each year, over 1 million Georgia residents enjoy hunting and fishing from the
14 Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean; and

15 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing – both freshwater and saltwater – generate \$216 million in
16 state and local tax revenue annually, directly supports 39,600 jobs in Georgia, and has a total
17 economic impact of over \$3.8 billion annually; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks among the top state hunting destination thanks to its abundant
19 wildlife populations and accessible wildlife habitat; and

20 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees are the primary funding source for operating
21 more than 1 million acres of wildlife management areas in Georgia, which provide a myriad
22 of recreational and educational opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees along with excise taxes paid on hunting and
24 fishing equipment have funded the successful restoration of numerous wildlife and fish
25 species including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear, wood ducks, brook trout, and red
26 drum; and

27 WHEREAS, the sportsmen and sportswomen of Georgia and the conservation organizations
28 they support through donations and volunteerism work to preserve our state's natural lands
29 and wildlife, which includes non-game, as well as game animals.

30 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body,
31 on behalf of the citizens of Georgia, hereby recognize January 16, 2014, as "Sportsmen's and
32 Coastal Day at the Capitol."

33 BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to
34 transmit an appropriate copy of the resolution to the Georgia Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.