

Senate Bill 299

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Ginn of the 47th, Miller of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 50th,
Tolleson of the 20th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 12-2-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 promulgation of minimum standards and procedures for protection of natural resources,
3 environment, and vital areas of the state, so as to provide flexibility for establishing
4 watershed protection standards; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
5 for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 12-2-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to promulgation of
9 minimum standards and procedures for protection of natural resources, environment, and
10 vital areas of the state, is amended by revising subsection (d) as follows:

11 "(d) The minimum standards and procedures for watershed protection referred to in
12 subsection (b) of this Code section shall specifically include all measures necessary to
13 ensure that activities do not contaminate water resources to a point where the water cannot
14 be treated to meet drinking water standards and may include, but shall not be limited to,
15 buffer areas along streams and reservoirs, land development densities, and land use
16 activities. Local governments shall submit for approval by the department a watershed
17 protection plan which shall include standards and procedures for watershed protection. The
18 department may adopt differing minimum standards and procedures of watershed
19 protection based on the size of the watershed, the size or flow volume of the stream or
20 reservoir, and whether or not the actual use of the municipal water supply is existing or
21 proposed."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.