

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

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**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 require submission of watershed protection plans by local  
5 governments; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

12 "(d) The minimum standards and procedures for watershed protection referred to in  
13 subsection (b) of this Code section shall specifically include, but shall not be limited to,  
14 buffer areas along streams and reservoirs, land development densities, and land use  
15 activities. Local governments shall submit for approval by the department a watershed  
16 protection plan which shall include watershed protection standards and procedures. The  
17 department may adopt differing minimum standards and procedures of watershed  
18 protection based on the size of the watershed, the size or flow volume of the stream or  
19 reservoir, and whether or not the actual use of the municipal water supply is existing or  
20 proposed. Standards and procedures for buffer areas along streams and reservoirs shall  
21 comply with subsection (b) of this Code section and Code Section 12-7-6."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.