

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment offers the following substitute to SB 36:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to wells and drinking water, so as to require the promulgation of regulations by the
3 Board of Natural Resources which provide for the protection of underground drinking water;
4 to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related matters;
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

7 Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wells
8 and drinking water, is amended by adding a new part to read as follows:
9

"Part 1A

10
11 12-5-80.

12 This part shall be known and may be cited as the 'Underground Water Supply Protection
13 Act of 2015.'

14 12-5-81.

15 The General Assembly finds that certain areas of this state are dependent on the
16 productivity, integrity, and quality of aquifers underlying those areas for the purpose of
17 providing a clean and reliable water supply. This water supply supports local economies
18 and is superior to alternatives in terms of both cost and reliability. Landowners overlaying
19 such aquifers have significant property interests in the preservation and protection of
20 high-quality drinking water provided by these public resources. The process of storing
21 surface water in these aquifers for later recovery for water supply or other uses and the
22 process of moving water among aquifers for water supply or other uses, together known

23 as aquifer storage and recovery, potentially pose significant threats to the reliability and
24 physical integrity of these natural water supplies unless protective regulations are in place.

25 12-5-82.

26 On or before July 1, 2016, the Board of Natural Resources shall adopt regulations that
27 provide for the protection and preservation of aquifers that provide high-quality drinking
28 water, including but not limited to the Floridan aquifer, and for the restoration and
29 maintenance of all other aquifers wholly or partially within this state. Such regulations
30 shall include restrictions or prohibitions on aquifer storage and recovery where necessary
31 to preserve the physical and chemical integrity of aquifers."

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.