

Senate Resolution 684

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Tippins of the 37th, Millar of the 40th, Harbin of the 16th, Gooch of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 14, 2016, as Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the capitol; and for other
2 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 this 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 one million Georgia residents enjoy hunting and fishing from
14 the 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 support 39,600 jobs in Georgia, and have a total
17 economic impact of over \$3.8 billion annually; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks among the top hunting destinations 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 one million acres of wildlife management areas in Georgia, which provide a
22 myriad of recreational and educational opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees as well as 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 that they support work to preserve our state's natural lands and wildlife, which includes
29 non-game and game animals.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 hereby recognize January 14, 2016, as Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of the resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
34 Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.