

House Resolution 1198 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th, Stephens of the 164th, Bryant of the 162nd, Petrea of the 166th, Nimmer of the 178th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources
2 to review its regulations providing for the protection of underground drinking water to ensure
3 they are sufficient; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, certain areas of this state are dependent on the productivity, integrity, and
5 quality of aquifers underlying those areas for the purpose of providing a clean and reliable
6 water supply and such water supply supports local economies and is superior to alternatives
7 in terms of both cost and reliability; and

8 WHEREAS, there is significant state interest in the maintenance of clean and reliable water
9 supply for all areas of the state, requiring assessment of all available water supply options;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, one option that has been discussed is aquifer storage and recovery, the process
12 of storing surface water in aquifers for later recovery for water supply or other uses or the
13 process of moving water among aquifers for water supply or other uses; and

14 WHEREAS, concerns have been expressed about the potential for negative impacts of
15 aquifer storage and recovery to the state's aquifers in the absence of protective regulations;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that the Board of Natural Resources has
18 already adopted regulations that are applicable to aquifer storage and recovery.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the members of this body encourage the Environmental Protection Division of the
21 Department of Natural Resources to review its current regulations as they relate to aquifer
22 storage and recovery to ensure that they are sufficient to provide for the protection and
23 preservation of the state's aquifers, to revise such regulations when necessary, and to consider

24 the availability of other water supply sources in the permitting of any potential aquifer
25 storage and recovery project.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Environmental Protection Division is urged to issue
27 a report detailing its review of current regulations relating to aquifer storage and recovery to
28 the Board of Natural Resources no later than June 30, 2017.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
31 Governor of Georgia and the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the
32 Department of Natural Resources.