

House Resolution 281

By: Representatives Frye of the 118th, McCall of the 33rd, Knight of the 130th, Buckner of the 137th, Williams of the 119th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and encouraging the proliferation and use of water trails in Georgia; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, water trails in Georgia create "hiking trails" on water that provide access points
4 for fishing, swimming, paddling, picnicking, and bird watching, thereby allowing people to
5 enjoy scarce, valuable, and underutilized natural and public amenities; and

6 WHEREAS, there are educational, scenic, cultural, and historic sites along or in close
7 proximity to these water trails; and

8 WHEREAS, greater use and enjoyment of Georgia's rivers and streams will ensure a healthy
9 future for the surrounding ecosystem; and

10 WHEREAS, water trails on Georgia's rivers become part of the outdoor recreation industry
11 and foster community revitalization by increasing tourism, expanding local economies, and
12 increasing the value of real estate property along rivers; and

13 WHEREAS, in Georgia alone, more than \$23 billion are spent on outdoor recreation and
14 Georgia's 15 existing water trails, stretching 1,055 miles, would continue to contribute to the
15 outdoor recreation industry that provides 6.1 million jobs in the United States, \$39.9 billion
16 in federal tax revenue, and \$39.7 billion in state and local tax revenue.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
18 the members of this body recognize Georgia River Network and their water trail partners for
19 their dedicated public service to the State of Georgia and encourage the exploration of
20 existing water trails and the development of future water trails around the state.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
22 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
23 water trail partnerships throughout Georgia.