

Senate Resolution 584

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Tippins of the 37th, Kirk of the 13th, Jones of the 25th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing January 11, 2018, as "Keeping Georgia Wild Day"; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of the most geographically and biologically diverse areas in the
3 nation with abundant plant and animal populations that provide its citizens with unrivaled
4 opportunities for recreation and commerce while also sustaining a quality of life that makes
5 this state a great place to live and work; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Coastal Georgia is a particularly unique part of this diverse state with a half
7 million acres of estuaries, 3,000 miles of tidal waterways, a chain of 14 barrier islands, and
8 300 square miles of open Atlantic Ocean; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Coastal Georgia produces fresh seafood – shrimp, blue crabs, fish, and oysters
10 – that is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike while also providing an estimated \$45 million
11 of economic impact; and
- 12 WHEREAS, each year, more than one million Georgia residents enjoy hunting and fishing
13 from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean; and
- 14 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing – both freshwater and saltwater – generate \$216 million in
15 state and local tax revenue annually, directly support 39,600 jobs in Georgia, and have a total
16 economic impact of more than \$3.8 billion annually; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks among the top hunting destination states due to its abundant
18 wildlife populations and accessible wildlife habitats; and
- 19 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees are the primary funding source for operating
20 more than one million acres of wildlife management areas in Georgia, which provide a
21 myriad of recreational and educational opportunities; and

22 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees along with excise taxes paid on hunting and
23 fishing equipment have funded the successful restoration of numerous wildlife and fish
24 species including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear, wood ducks, brook trout, and red
25 drum; and

26 WHEREAS, the sportsmen and sportswomen of Georgia and the conservation organizations
27 they support through donations and volunteerism work to preserve our state's natural lands
28 and wildlife, which includes nongame as well as game animals.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body,
30 on behalf of the citizens of Georgia, recognize January 11, 2018, as "Keeping Georgia Wild
31 Day."

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