

House Resolution 238 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Watson of the 172nd, Burns of the 159th, Nimmer of the 178th, Smith of the 70th, Frye of the 118th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to
 2 provide by general law for an annual allocation of up to 0.75 percent of the revenue derived
 3 from the state sales and use tax with respect to goods and services a trust fund to be used for
 4 the protection and preservation of conservation land; to provide for sunset provisions in
 5 authorized general laws; to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this
 6 amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI of the Constitution is amended by adding a new
 10 subparagraph to read as follows:

11 "(p) The General Assembly is authorized to provide by general law that up to 0.75
 12 percent of all moneys received by the state from the state's portion of the levy of a tax on
 13 the sale and use of goods and services, as defined by general law, in the immediately
 14 preceding fiscal year will be paid into and dedicated to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship
 15 Trust Fund for the purpose of protecting and preserving conservation land, as more
 16 specifically provided for by general law. Any general law adopted pursuant to this
 17 Paragraph shall provide for automatic repeal not more than ten years after its effective date,
 18 provided that such repeal date may be extended for a maximum of ten additional years.
 19 The revenues dedicated pursuant to this subparagraph shall not lapse, the provisions of
 20 Article III, Section IX, Paragraph IV(c) to the contrary notwithstanding, and such revenues
 21 shall not be subject to the limitations of subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or Article VII,
 22 Section III, Paragraph II(a)."

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
 25 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
 26 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

27 " YES Without increasing the current state sales tax rate, shall the Constitution of
28 Georgia be amended so as to create the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust

29 NO Fund to conserve lands that protect drinking water sources and the water
30 quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; to protect and conserve forests, fish,
31 wildlife habitats, and state and local parks; and to provide opportunities for
32 our children and families to play and enjoy the outdoors, by dedicating,
33 subject to full public disclosure, up to 0.75 percent of the existing sales tax
34 to such purposes without increasing the current state sales tax rate?"

35 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

36 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
37 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
38 become a part of the Constitution of this state.