

House Resolution 1237

By: Representatives Knight of the 130th, Rhodes of the 120th, Buckner of the 137th, Dubnik of the 29th, Smith of the 70th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of the most biologically diverse states in the nation and is home
4 to thousands of species of native plants and animals, including many species that are found
5 nowhere else on Earth; and

6 WHEREAS, conservation and management of Georgia's wildlife resources contributes
7 greatly to the quality of life, economic well-being, and cultural identity of its citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, an extinction crisis is occurring among America's wildlife, with one-third of
9 species from the best known groups of plants and animals in the United States considered
10 vulnerable to extinction and 12,000 species in need of conservation attention; and

11 WHEREAS, more than 1,600 United States species are now receiving protection under the
12 federal Endangered Species Act, including Georgia's red-cockaded woodpecker, northern
13 right whale, loggerhead sea turtle, and persistent trillium, while many other species are
14 currently being considered for federal protection; and

15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has developed a State Wildlife
16 Action Plan, which was first approved in 2005 and revised in 2015 with assistance from over
17 100 partner organizations; and

18 WHEREAS, the goal of the State Wildlife Action Plan is to conserve Georgia's animals,
19 plants, and natural habitats through proactive measures that emphasize voluntary and
20 incentive based programs on private lands, habitat restoration and management by public
21 agencies and private conservation organizations, rare species survey and recovery efforts,
22 and environmental education and wildlife associated recreation activities; and

23 WHEREAS, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act) and the
24 Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act) have been enormously
25 successful in the recovery of game animals and sport fish through the provision of federal
26 aid to the various state wildlife agencies; and

27 WHEREAS, the federal government lacks a dedicated funding system to conserve at-risk
28 species of animals and plants, but the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide
29 permanent federal revenue for each state to enact its own plan for stabilizing and recovering
30 its species in decline through an annual allocation of \$1.3 billion dedicated to state based
31 conservation; and

32 WHEREAS, with passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, Georgia would be
33 eligible for more than \$28 million annually to implement its State Wildlife Action Plan and
34 support proactive conservation measures for species of greatest conservation need; and

35 WHEREAS, administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife
36 Resources Division, this funding would reduce the likelihood for federal regulatory
37 intervention by empowering state wildlife managers and private landowners to address
38 conservation issues at the local level; and

39 WHEREAS, Georgia would not only benefit ecologically but also economically through job
40 creation, improved regulatory certainty, increased nature tourism, and sustainable wildlife
41 based recreation; and

42 WHEREAS, passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would represent a
43 transformative step in preserving the character and beauty of our state's natural environment.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
45 the members of this body urge the Congress of the United States to pass the Recovering
46 America's Wildlife Act.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
49 President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, and the Speaker of
50 the United States House of Representatives, and all members of the Georgia Congressional
51 and Senate Delegation with a request that the resolution be entered in the Congressional
52 Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.