

The Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee offered the following substitute to HB 684:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to state parks and recreational areas generally, so as to require the Department of
3 Natural Resources to notify local governing authorities before making certain significant
4 changes in services at state parks or recreational areas located within the area of the local
5 governing authority; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

8 Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state
9 parks and recreational areas generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
10 follows:
11

12 "12-3-35.

13 (a) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'change in services' means the closing of
14 a state park or recreational area, a permanent change of a primary existing operational
15 function, or a reduction in the hours of operation or services offered at a state park or
16 recreational area location by 50 percent or more.

17 (b) Prior to making a change in services, the Department of Natural Resources shall
18 provide 90 days' notice to the governing authority of each municipality and county in
19 which the state park or recreational area is located regarding the specific proposed change
20 in services. The notice required by this Code section shall be made in writing and sent to
21 the applicable chairperson of the county commissioners and the mayor of the municipality."

SECTION 2.

22 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
23 without such approval.
24

25 **SECTION 3.**
26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.