House Resolution 686 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Watson of the 172nd, Burns of the 159th, Buckner of the 137th, Corbett of the 174th, and Hatchett of the 150th

A RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide for a reduction in the rate of the ad valorem tax assessment of timber at sale or harvest; to require state appropriations to each county, municipality, or school district affected by such reduced rate of taxation; to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article VII, Section I, Paragraph III of the Constitution is amended by revising subparagraph (e)(2) as follows:

"(2)(A) Until January 1, 2023, that ~~That~~ standing timber shall be assessed only once, and such assessment shall be made following its harvest or sale and on the basis of its fair market value at the time of harvest or sale. Said assessment shall be two and one-half times the assessed percentage of value fixed by law for other real property taxed under the uniformity provisions of subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph but in no event greater than its fair market value; and for a method of temporary supplementation of the property tax digest of any county if the implementation of this method of taxing timber reduces the tax digest by more than 20 percent, such supplemental assessed

value to be assigned to the properties otherwise benefiting from such method of taxing timber;

(B) On and after January 1, 2023, that standing timber shall be assessed only once, and such assessment shall be made following its harvest or sale and on the basis of its fair market value at the time of harvest or sale. Said assessment shall be at the same percentage of value fixed by law for other real property taxed under the uniformity provisions of subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph; and

(C) On and after January 1, 2024, the General Assembly shall annually appropriate to each county, municipality, or school district that experienced an ad valorem revenue reduction during the preceding tax year, owing to the change from the manner of assessment of timber as provided in subparagraph (e)(2)(A) of this Paragraph to the manner of assessment of timber as provided in subparagraph (e)(2)(B) of this Paragraph, an amount equal to 50 percent of such revenue reduction for the first 3 percent of such taxing jurisdiction's total timber harvest ad valorem tax revenue for the tax year and an amount equal to 100 percent of such revenue reduction that exceeds 3 percent of such taxing jurisdiction's total timber harvest ad valorem tax revenue for the tax year. The General Assembly shall be authorized to enact general laws to administer the provisions of this subparagraph (C).″

SECTION 2.

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

"( ) YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide for a reduction
( ) NO in the rate of the ad valorem tax assessment of timber at sale or harvest and to require state appropriations to each county, municipality, or school district affected by such reduction?"

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