

Senate Bill 420

By: Senators Echols of the 49th, Anderson of the 24th, Gooch of the 51st, Anavitarte of the 31st, Still of the 48th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 27-2-23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 license, permit, tag, and stamp fees, so as to provide for fees for reef and migratory fish  
3 endorsements; to provide for recreational and commercial fishing; to provide for reporting  
4 of information; to provide for retention of certain fees; to amend Code Section 12-2-2 of the  
5 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to Environmental Protection Division, appeal  
6 procedures generally, permit applications, and inspections, Code Section 27-1-39 of the  
7 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to rules and regulations used to establish  
8 criminal violations, and Code Section 52-7-26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to penalty, respectively, so as to revise effective dates; to provide for related matters;  
10 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**PART I**  
**SECTION 1-1.**

14 Code Section 27-2-23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to license, permit,  
15 tag, and stamp fees, is amended by adding new subparagraphs to paragraph (4), revising  
16 paragraph (11), and adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

17	<u>“(K) Resident reef/migratory fish</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>10.00</u>
18	<u>endorsement</u>		
19	<u>“(L) Nonresident reef/migratory fish</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>20.00”</u>
20	<u>endorsement</u>		

21 “(11) For wildlife that may be legally taken by recreational or commercial fishing gear  
22 as authorized in this title or by board rule, the board may designate which species of  
23 wildlife or species grouping of wildlife require a recreational or commercial fishing  
24 species endorsement for a fee shown in subparagraphs (K) and (L) of paragraph (4) or  
25 subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (6) of this Code section in addition to the  
26 required recreational or commercial fishing license. Each species or group of species so  
27 designated shall require a separate recreational or commercial fishing species  
28 endorsement. Each person who holds an endorsement pursuant to the provisions of this  
29 Code section shall report such information as required by the department at the times and  
30 in the manner the board provides by rule or regulation.”

31 “(12.1) Any fees collected pursuant to subparagraphs (K) and (L) of paragraph (4) of this  
32 Code section shall be retained by the department pursuant to Code Section 45-12-92.1.”

33 **PART II**

34 **SECTION 2-1.**

35 Code Section 12-2-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to Environmental  
36 Protection Division, appeal procedures generally, permit applications, and inspections, is  
37 amended by revising paragraph (5) of subsection (c) as follows:

38 "(5) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for purposes of establishing criminal  
39 violations of the standards, rules, and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural  
40 Resources as provided in this title, the term 'standards, rules, and regulations' shall mean  
41 those standards, rules, and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources in force and  
42 effect on January 1, ~~2025~~ 2026."

43 **SECTION 2-2.**

44 Code Section 27-1-39 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to rules and  
45 regulations used to establish criminal violations, is amended as follows:

46 "27-1-39.

47 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for purposes of establishing criminal  
48 violations of the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources as  
49 provided in this title, the term 'rules and regulations' means those rules and regulations of  
50 the Board of Natural Resources in force and effect on January 1, ~~2025~~ 2026."

51 **SECTION 2-3.**

52 Code Section 52-7-26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penalty, is  
53 amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

54 "(a) Except as otherwise provided in this article, any person who violates this article or any  
55 rule or regulation promulgated hereunder shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For purposes  
56 of establishing criminal violations of the rules and regulations promulgated by the board

57 as provided in this article, the term 'rules and regulations' means those rules and regulations  
58 of the board in force and effect on January 1, ~~2025~~ 2026."

59

**PART III**

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**SECTION 3-1.**

61 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.