

House Bill 279

By: Representatives Lewis-Ward of the 109th, Allen of the 40th, Clark of the 108th, Wilkerson of the 38th, and Evans of the 83rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to environmental policy, so as to require local governments to post contents of
3 environmental effects reports on their official websites; to provide for a definition; to provide
4 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 environmental policy, is amended by revising paragraph (5) of Code Section 12-16-3,
9 relating to definitions, as follows:

10 "(5) 'Government agency' means any department, board, bureau, commission, authority,
11 or other agency of the state and the governing authority of any county, municipality, or
12 consolidated government."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 12-16-4, relating
15 to determination of adverse effect on quality of environment, environmental effects report,
16 consultation with other agencies, and publication of notice of proposed action, as follows:

17 "(c) At least 45 days prior to making a decision as to whether to proceed with a proposed
18 governmental action which may significantly adversely affect the quality of the
19 environment, the responsible official shall publish in the legal organ of each county in
20 which the proposed governmental action or any part thereof is to occur notice that an
21 environmental effects report has been prepared. The responsible official shall provide a
22 copy of the environmental effects report and all other comments to the director. The
23 responsible official shall also make the environmental effects report available to the public
24 and to counties, municipalities, consolidated governments, institutions, and individuals,
25 upon request. The governing authority of any county, municipality, or consolidated
26 government shall, within 48 hours of receiving such a report, post the contents of each such
27 report on the official website of the local government."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.