

House Bill 561

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52nd, Benton of the 31st, Henson of the 86th, Cooper of the 43rd, McCall of the 33rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to state symbols, so as to designate the adoptable dog as the official state dog; to
3 provide legislative findings and declarations; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

- 8 (1) The National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy estimates that a majority of
9 animals taken into shelters are euthanized;
- 10 (2) Thousands of dogs and cats are currently available for adoption in Georgia animal
11 shelters, humane societies, and private rescue groups;
- 12 (3) Responsible pet ownership that includes spay and neuter of dogs and cats not being
13 actively bred by owners will reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats that are
14 euthanized in Georgia every year;
- 15 (4) The State of Georgia wishes to promote responsible stewardship of dogs and cats; and
16 (5) The State of Georgia wishes to promote animal rescue and adoption.

17 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

18 Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state
19 symbols, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

20 "50-3-87.

21 (a) As used in this Code section:

- 22 (1) 'Adoptable dog' means any dog in the custody of any animal shelter, humane society,
23 or public or private animal refuge that is available for adoption by the general public.
- 24 (2) 'Animal shelter' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 4-14-2.
- 25 (3) 'Humane society' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 4-14-2.

- 26 (4) 'Public or private animal refuge' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code
27 Section 4-14-2.
28 (b) The adoptable dog is designated as the official Georgia state dog."

29

SECTION 3.

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.