

Senate Resolution 1151

By: Senators Jeffares of the 17th, Tolleson of the 20th, Harper of the 7th, Williams of the 19th, Gooch of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Georgia Water Quality Control
2 Act and commending the water professionals, government officials, environmental
3 community, legal community, media, and citizens of Georgia for their role in improving and
4 enhancing the quality of all of Georgia's water resources; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Water Quality Control Act was passed by the Georgia General
6 Assembly and signed into law in 1964 by Governor Carl Sanders; and

7 WHEREAS, at that time, there were 25 communities in Georgia which had no public sewer
8 system; 40 communities with a sewer system but no treatment facilities; 60 communities
9 with a sewer system but only primary treatment facilities; 50 communities with a sewer
10 system and secondary treatment facilities which were in need of improvement; and 395
11 industries which had documented untreated or inadequately treated discharges to Georgia's
12 surface waters; and

13 WHEREAS, at the time of passage of the Act, many of Georgia's surface waters were
14 extremely polluted, and serious water quality problems existed all over the State of Georgia;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the state established the Georgia Water Quality Control Board (later
17 reconstituted as the Georgia Environmental Protection Division as a result of the 1972
18 Reorganization of State Government under Governor Jimmy Carter) and Governor Sanders
19 appointed R.S. "Rock" Howard to be the board's executive secretary; and

20 WHEREAS, by the time the Federal Water Quality Control Act was passed in 1972, most
21 of Georgia's industries had been brought into compliance with the initial requirements of the
22 federal Act; and

23 WHEREAS, over the ensuing four decades, billions of federal, state, and local dollars have
24 been invested in planning, designing, and constructing modern publicly owned wastewater
25 treatment facilities throughout the state; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia's water professionals are committed to operating these facilities to
27 maintain consistent compliance with extremely stringent standards; and

28 WHEREAS, both publicly and privately owned facilities have performed so well that they
29 are no longer the most significant threat to Georgia's waters; and

30 WHEREAS, the quality of Georgia's waters has improved dramatically throughout this great
31 state over the 50 years since the passage of the original Act; and

32 WHEREAS, it is imperative that these improvements be sustained while continuing our
33 efforts to educate Georgians of their growing responsibility in the reduction of non-point
34 sources of pollution to Georgia's waters.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 commemorate the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act
37 and commend the water professionals, regulators, government officials, environmental
38 community, media, and citizens of Georgia for their role in the vast improvements in the
39 quality of water in Georgia's streams, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies over the past five
40 decades.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in recognition of the often overlooked contributions of
42 water professionals to protecting our state's water resources and to ensuring that public water
43 systems provide Georgia's citizens with a reliable and safe supply of drinking water, the
44 members of this body commend the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and the
45 Georgia Rural Water Association and their members, and designate March 12, 2014, as
46 "Thank a Water Professional" Day at the state capitol.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
48 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association of Water
49 Professionals and the Georgia Rural Water Association.