

Senate Resolution 298

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Harper of the 7th, Sims of the 12th, Harbin of the 16th, Tippins of the 37th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the House and Senate to recognize Saturday, September 28, 2019, as National
2 Hunting and Fishing Day in the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that dates back
4 further than the state itself and carries forward to this day; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to
6 support the establishment of the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division to conserve fish,
7 wildlife, and their habitat and through their license fees helped fund state efforts to provide
8 for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

9 WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain
10 healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise
11 taxes on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

12 WHEREAS, to this day, the Wildlife Resources Division is funded primarily by sportsmen
13 and women through this American System of Conservation Funding, a "user pays – public
14 benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful model of fish and wildlife
15 management in the world; and

16 WHEREAS, last year alone, Georgia's sportsmen and women generated nearly \$54 million
17 through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Wildlife Resources Division;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Georgia's nearly 1.1 million hunters and anglers support the state's economy
20 through spending more than \$2.3 billion annually while engaged in their pursuits; and

21 WHEREAS, this spending supports over 39,640 jobs in Georgia and generates \$216 million
22 in state and local taxes; and

23 WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and
24 recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife
25 conservation and to our society.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 GEORGIA that the members of this body hereby commend the many and varied social,
28 cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and
29 angling and recognize Saturday, September 28, 2019, as National Hunting and Fishing Day
30 in the State of Georgia, a day to be set aside in celebration of Georgia's sportsmen and
31 women.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
34 press.