

SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 273**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions relative to the Department of Natural Resources, so as to
3 extend the date by which rules and regulations prescribed by the Board of Natural Resources
4 must be in effect for purposes of establishing criminal violations of said rules and
5 regulations; to amend Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of
6 Georgia Annotated, relating to the Sapelo Island Heritage Authority, so as to amend the
7 composition and chairmanship of the Sapelo Island Heritage Authority; to provide for related
8 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 general provisions relative to the Department of Natural Resources, is amended in Code
13 Section 12-2-2, relating to the Environmental Protection Division, Environmental Advisory
14 Council, duties of council and its members and director, appeal procedures generally, permit
15 applications, and inspections, by revising paragraph (5) of subsection (c) as follows:

16 "(5) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for purposes of establishing criminal
17 violations of the standards, rules, and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural

18 Resources as provided in this title, the term 'standards, rules, and regulations' shall mean
 19 those standards, rules, and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources in force and
 20 effect on January 1, ~~2022~~ 2023."

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SECTION 2.

22 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
 23 relating to the Sapelo Island Heritage Authority, is amended in Code Section 12-3-444,
 24 relating to membership, officers, compensation, quorum, and meetings by revising
 25 subsections (a) and (b) as follows:

26 "(a) The authority shall be composed of five members as follows:

27 (1) The Governor, or his or her designee, who shall be a state-wide elected official or a
 28 state agency representative serving under the Governor;

29 (2) The commissioner of natural resources;

30 (3) The executive director of the State Properties Commission; and

31 ~~(4) A resident of the community of Hog Hammock described in paragraph (5) of~~
 32 ~~subsection (a) of Code Section 12-3-444~~ Two residents of the community located on the
 33 grounds of the former Spalding Plantation who are direct descendants of the slaves of
 34 Thomas Spalding, a prior landowner on Greater Sapelo Island, to be appointed by the
 35 Governor for a term of four years; and

36 ~~(5) The Commissioner of Human Relations in the office of the Governor; provided,~~
 37 ~~however, that if a vacancy exists in such office for longer than 60 consecutive days, the~~
 38 ~~Governor shall appoint instead a second resident of the community of Hog Hammock for~~
 39 ~~a term of four years, after which the Commissioner of Human Relations, if such office~~
 40 ~~is then occupied, shall become a member.~~

41 Vacancies in the appointed positions shall be filled for the remainder of the term by
 42 appointment of the Governor.

43 (b) The ~~Governor~~ commissioner of natural resources shall be the chairperson of the
44 authority, the ~~commissioner of natural resources~~ Governor shall be its vice chairperson, and
45 the executive director of the State Properties Commission shall be its secretary-treasurer."

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SECTION 3.

47 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
48 without such approval.

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SECTION 4.

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