

House Resolution 1075

By: Representatives Cannon of the 172nd, Petrea of the 166th, Dunahoo of the 31st, Knight of the 134th, McDonald of the 26th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 5-9, 2024, as Prescribed Fire Awareness Week; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Prescribed Burning Act of 1992 declares and protects prescribed
4 burning as a valuable and necessary forest management tool; and

5 WHEREAS, prescribed burning is defined as a fire set under controlled conditions to burn
6 forest understory and is used as a forest management practice to establish favorable seedbeds,
7 remove competing underbrush, accelerate nutrient cycling, control tree pests, enhance
8 wildlife habitat, and contribute to ecological benefits; and

9 WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a cost-effective and necessary tool for maintaining healthy
10 forests; and

11 WHEREAS, prescribed burning of Georgia's forestland is a valuable land management
12 practice for protecting the forest from devastating wildfires and managing wildlife species;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, of Georgia's 37 million acres of land area, 24.6 million acres is forest land; and

15 WHEREAS, of Georgia's 24.6 million acres of forest land, 24.1 million acres is privately
16 held timberland available for commercial use—more than any other state in the nation. The
17 state's forest lands provide a myriad of benefits to citizens, including clean air and clean
18 water; and

19 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Commission, partner agencies, and organizations across
20 the state support, promote, educate, and train for the continued use of prescribed burning for
21 public benefit and safety; and

22 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has issued more than 71,000 prescribed burning permits
23 over a five-year period, which has allowed for the use of prescribed burning as a
24 management tool on more than 6,000,000 acres; and

25 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia joins in thanking those land managers who protect and
26 maintain Georgia's natural heritage for present and future generations.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize February 5-9, 2024, as Prescribed Fire Awareness Week
29 in the State of Georgia.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
32 public and the press.