

Senate Bill 474

By: Senator Harper of the 7th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding the Department of Economic Development, so as to
3 provide for the Department of Natural Resources to construct, operate, maintain, and supply
4 informational materials at welcome centers assigned to it by the Governor; to provide for the
5 installation and operation of automated teller machines and cash-dispensing machines at
6 welcome centers; to provide for the installation, operation, and setting of product prices for
7 vending machines; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 general provisions regarding the Department of Economic Development, is amended by
13 revising Code Section 50-7-12, relating to welcome centers authorized, department to
14 construct, operate, and maintain centers, installation and operation of vending machines,
15 automated teller machines, and cash-dispensing machines, as follows:

16 "50-7-12.

17 (a) The Governor shall have authority to direct and provide for the construction of
18 welcome centers at or near the point of entrance into this state of any federal highway. The
19 Department of Transportation may exercise the power of eminent domain in acquiring fee
20 simple title to suitable locations for the erection of such welcome centers. Any welcome
21 center acquired prior to April 23, 1969, may be maintained and improved, regardless of
22 whether the fee simple title therefor is in the state.

23 (b) It shall be the duty of the Department of Economic Development or the Department
24 of Natural Resources to construct, operate, and maintain the welcome centers assigned to
25 such agency by the Governor and keep them supplied with such information, pamphlets,

26 and other materials as will advertise and publicize the tourist attractions, natural resources,
27 industry, history, and commerce of this state.

28 (c) The Department of Economic Development or the Department of Natural Resources,
29 with the concurrence of the Department of Transportation, is further authorized to install
30 or provide for the installation of and to operate or provide for the operation of vending
31 machines and to sell in such machines nonalcoholic beverages, snacks, candy, cigarettes,
32 and other articles as determined by the Department of Economic Development or the
33 Department of Natural Resources to be necessary or desirable for the traveling public at
34 reasonable prices at the welcome centers assigned to such agency. The prices charged for
35 these products will approximate the prevailing rate within the area for similar items so as
36 not to compete unfairly with private enterprise, such prices to be set by the Department of
37 Economic Development or the Department of Natural Resources for the welcome centers
38 assigned to such agency. The Department of Economic Development or the Department
39 of Natural Resources is also authorized to provide for the sale or free distribution of articles
40 and merchandise at the welcome centers assigned to such agency in such manner as is
41 deemed to be in the best interest of promoting the tourist trade in this state.

42 (d) The Department of Economic Development or the Department of Natural Resources,
43 with the concurrence of the Department of Transportation, is authorized to provide for the
44 installation and operation at welcome centers of automated teller machines and
45 cash-dispensing machines at the welcome centers assigned to such agency. If so authorized,
46 such machines shall be established, placed, and operated in accordance with applicable law.
47 Such machines shall be placed in welcome centers upon such terms and conditions as shall
48 be deemed by the Department of Economic Development or the Department of Natural
49 Resources for the welcome centers assigned to such agency to be in the best interest of the
50 state and the traveling public."

51 **SECTION 2.**

52 Such article is further amended by revising Code Section 50-7-14, relating to tourist center
53 within vicinity of domestic residence of state citizen elected President, as follows:

54 "50-7-14.

55 (a) The Governor shall have authority to direct and provide for the construction of a tourist
56 center on real property owned by or which may be acquired by the state within the general
57 vicinity or area of the domestic residence of any citizen of this state when such citizen has
58 been elected President of the United States and the Governor determines that the number
59 of tourists and other persons visiting the area justifies the center.

60 (b) It shall be the duty of the Department of Economic Development or the Department
61 of Natural Resources to construct, operate, and maintain ~~the~~ any such tourist center

62 assigned to such agency by the Governor and keep it supplied with such information,
 63 pamphlets, and other materials as will advertise and publicize the tourist attractions, natural
 64 resources, industry, history, and commerce of this state.

65 (c) The Department of Economic Development or the Department of Natural Resources
 66 is further authorized to provide space for other commercial or noncommercial projects in
 67 the center assigned to such agency and allow the persons to sell or provide such articles or
 68 services as may be prescribed in the lease, contract, franchise, or other arrangement, as
 69 determined by the ~~department~~ Department of Economic Development or the Department
 70 of Natural Resources for the center assigned to such agency. The Department of Economic
 71 Development or the Department of Natural Resources shall regulate the sale or free
 72 distribution of such articles, merchandise, and services by other persons at the center
 73 assigned to such agency in the manner it deems to be in the best interest of promoting
 74 tourist trade in this state and otherwise furthering the purposes for which the center is
 75 created. The Department of Economic Development or the Department of Natural
 76 Resources is further authorized to install or provide for the installation of and to operate
 77 or provide for the operation of vending machines and to sell in such machines nonalcoholic
 78 beverages, snacks, candy, cigarettes, and other articles as determined by the Department
 79 of Economic Development or the Department of Natural Resources to be necessary or
 80 desirable for the traveling public at reasonable prices at the center assigned to such agency.
 81 The prices charged for these products will approximate the prevailing rate within the area
 82 for similar items so as not to compete unfairly with private enterprise, such prices to be set
 83 by the ~~department~~ Department of Economic Development or the Department of Natural
 84 Resources for the center assigned to such agency.

85 (d) The Department of Economic Development or the Department of Natural Resources
 86 may also enter into contracts with other state, local, or federal agencies or with other
 87 persons to assist it in construction, operation, or maintenance of the center assigned to such
 88 agency. The ~~department~~ Department of Economic Development or the Department of
 89 Natural Resources may acquire real and personal property for such purposes for the center
 90 assigned to such agency."

91 **SECTION 3.**

92 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

93 **SECTION 4.**

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