

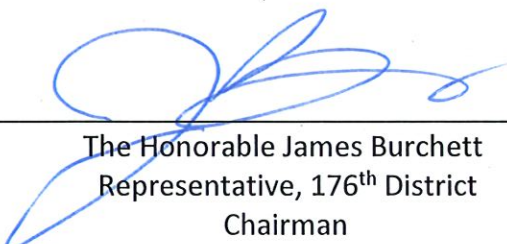
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon the conclusion of its meetings, the House Study Committee on Fishing Access to Freshwater Resources makes the following recommendations:

1. Determine and delineate the navigability of each of Georgia's rivers and streams based on the statutory definition;
2. Preserve the definition of navigability set forth in O.C.G.A. §44-8-5(a);
3. Maintain the underlying purpose of SB 115 while removing references to the public trust doctrine in statute in recognition of the doctrine's standing as a common law provision;
4. Clarify statutory language relating to trespass and stiffen the penalty under the Hunting and Fishing Code to enforce existing law;
5. Ensure the protection of the right of passage for navigable streams as found in O.C.G.A. §52-1-31;
6. Recognize the importance of Georgia's trout industry, including its unique ecological needs and economic benefits, and seek to preserve the state's trout waters; and
7. Support additional investment in public fishing properties.

Speaker Burns, these are the findings and recommendations of your Study Committee on Fishing Access to Freshwater Resources.

Respectfully Submitted,



The Honorable James Burchett
Representative, 176th District
Chairman