

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to surface mining, so as to prohibit the director of the Environmental  
3 Protection Division of the Natural Resources Department from issuing, modifying, or  
4 renewing any permit or accepting any bond to conduct surface mining operations on the  
5 geological feature known as Trail Ridge between the St. Marys and Satilla Rivers for future  
6 permit applications and amendments; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for  
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 The General Assembly finds that:

11 (1) The Okefenokee Swamp is a vital part of Georgia with more than local significance,  
12 is of equal importance to all citizens of the state, is of state-wide concern, and  
13 consequently is properly a matter for regulation and protection under the authority of the  
14 State of Georgia to ensure the values and functions of the Okefenokee Swamp, including  
15 its status as a popular and historic tourist attraction, are not impaired and to fulfill the