

House Bill 562

By: Representatives Taylor of the 173rd, Stephens of the 164th, Sainz of the 180th, Greene of the 154th, Buckner of the 137th, and others

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 provide for a five-year moratorium on the
3 acceptance of applications for new permits and the acceptance of requests to modify existing
4 permits by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources
5 to expand the area of land affected by surface mining operations on Trail Ridge; to provide
6 a definition; to provide exemptions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
7 and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to surface mining, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "12-4-85.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'Trail Ridge' means the elevated, geological
14 feature bounded on the west by the Okefenokee Swamp and its watershed; on the east by
15 an elevation of 100 feet above mean sea level; on the south by the triple divide of the
16 Soldiers Camp Island, Boone Creek, and Barbar Branch watersheds; and on the north by