

House Bill 561

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 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 Trail
5 Ridge for future permit applications and amendments; to provide a definition; to provide for
6 a short title; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Okefenokee Protection Act."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 The General Assembly finds that:

13 (1) The Okefenokee Swamp is a vital part of Georgia with more than local significance,
14 is of equal importance to all citizens of the state, is of state-wide concern, and
15 consequently is properly a matter for regulation and protection under the authority of the

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