

House Resolution 145

By: Representative Taylor of the 173rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 8, 2023, as Okefenokee Swamp Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is blessed with the unrivaled beauty of the Okefenokee
4 Swamp, the largest blackwater wetland in North America; and

5 WHEREAS, the Okefenokee Swamp is recognized as one of Georgia's seven natural
6 wonders and a natural area unique not only to the State of Georgia but also to the United
7 States of America and the world; and

8 WHEREAS, the refuge is home to thousands of species including 40 species of mammals,
9 more than 200 species of birds, 50 species of reptiles, and more than 600 plant species,
10 including many that are federally protected; and

11 WHEREAS, the swamp is a prized natural wonder and is home to rare animals like indigo
12 snakes, gopher tortoises and wood storks; features that have made the gator-filled area a
13 tourist destination for wildlife lovers; and

14 WHEREAS, the Okefenokee Swamp spans 438,000 acres with 93 percent of it protected as
15 the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, including 353,000 acres designated as a National
16 Wilderness Area by Congress; and

17 WHEREAS, Georgia's Stephen C. Foster State Park lies within the Okefenokee National
18 Wildlife Refuge and is designated as an International Dark Sky Park; and

19 WHEREAS, the Okefenokee Wilderness Canoe Trail, part of the National Water Trails
20 System, is visited regularly by anglers and tourists seeking a true wilderness experience; and

21 WHEREAS, the Okefenokee Swamp has inspired countless Georgia naturalists, artists, and
22 writers and has given us our very own state opossum, Pogo Possum; and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper for this body to recognize the extraordinary
24 natural wonder that is the Okefenokee Swamp.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body recognize February 8, 2023, as Okefenokee Swamp Day at the
27 state capitol.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
30 public and the press.