

Senate Bill 578

By: Senators Watson of the 11th, Goodman of the 8th, Anderson of the 24th and Echols of the 49th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 12-5-105 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 regulated reasonable use of ground water for farm use, permits to withdraw, obtain, or utilize,
3 metering, and related procedures, so as to provide for revocation of permits for conversion
4 to solar farms and reallocation of ground water capacity; to provide for definitions; to
5 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 12-5-105 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulated
9 reasonable use of ground water for farm use, permits to withdraw, obtain, or utilize,
10 metering, and related procedures, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

11 "(e)(1) As used in this subsection, the term:

12 (A) 'Solar energy system' means a system or device, including components and
13 subsystems, required to convert solar energy into electric or thermal electric energy,
14 including all equipment and accessory buildings. Such term does not include solar
15 energy systems of less than ten acres that are used primarily for the production of

16 energy for residential, commercial, or agricultural buildings or facilities on the
17 premises.

18 (B) 'Solar farm' means a utility-scale commercial solar energy system of ten acres or
19 more, the primary purpose of which is to generate energy for sale to public utilities.

20 (2) The director, within 90 days of notice that the holder of a permit has converted all or
21 a portion of property for which a permit has been issued pursuant to this Code section to
22 a solar farm, shall revoke such permit and may reallocate ground-water capacity to
23 another permittee or to an applicant for a new permit as may be authorized by law."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.