

Senate Resolution 623

By: Senators Rahman of the 5th, Anderson of the 24th, Hatchett of the 50th, Brass of the 28th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Economic Development,
2 and Department of Community Affairs to cooperate in crafting strategies to promote outdoor
3 recreation in the State of Georgia and establish Georgia as a top destination for outdoor
4 recreation; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources is the custodian of the state's natural
6 resources and provides outdoor recreational opportunities; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia's state parks see more than 14 million visitors annually, participating
8 in archery, biking, boating, camping, disc golfing, dog walking, equestrian activities, fishing,
9 footgolf, geocaching, golfing, hiking, history, nature watching, paddling, swimming, and
10 more outdoor recreational opportunities; and

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources is responsible for conserving and
12 promoting fishing, hunting, and wildlife resources through management, education, and
13 scientific research, and creates outdoor recreation opportunities on more than one million
14 acres of land managed for public use and 500,000 acres of public reservoirs; and

15 WHEREAS, the outdoor recreation industry is growing rapidly, eclipsing the overall increase
16 in gross domestic product; and

17 WHEREAS, the state-level data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis show that outdoor
18 recreation in Georgia contributes more than \$15.7 billion to the state's economy and directly
19 supports over 160,000 jobs; and

20 WHEREAS, promoting and enhancing the state's outdoor recreation economy will benefit
21 all residents and can particularly support rural communities that are gateways to outdoor
22 recreation locations and opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, there is much support in this chamber for the Department of Natural Resources,
24 Department of Economic Development, and Department of Community Affairs to engage
25 in a coordinated effort to determine the best method to make the most of Georgia's unique
26 outdoor recreational resources.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Department of
28 Natural Resources, Department of Economic Development, and Department of Community
29 Affairs are encouraged to cooperate in crafting strategies to promote outdoor recreation in
30 the State of Georgia; additionally the Department of Natural Resources is encouraged to
31 identify a position responsible for coordinating collaboration within the state's government
32 to promote and support outdoor recreation; and said position should also serve as the point
33 of contact for corporate, nonprofit, federal, and local government partners engaging with the
34 state to promote outdoor recreation.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public.