

1 SJR16
2 141393-2
3 By Senators Dial, Orr and Allen
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 07-FEB-12

1 SJR16

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4 ENGROSSED

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6 CLARIFYING THE STATE'S STEWARDSHIP ROLE OVER WATER
7 AS A STATE RESOURCE.

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9 WHEREAS, evidence of the state's stewardship role,
10 with regard to water is found in the Alabama Water Resources
11 Act, Section 9-10B-2, Code of Alabama 1975; and

12 WHEREAS, a clear statement of the state's
13 stewardship role with regard to the waters of the state would
14 enhance the state's ability to protect this resource,
15 including groundwater; and

16 WHEREAS, a clear statement of the state's
17 stewardship role with regard to the waters of the state would
18 enhance the state's ability to protect this resource from
19 federal and interstate encroachment; and

20 WHEREAS, the state needs to ensure that federal
21 agencies clearly understand this stewardship role in all water
22 and reservoir management plans and activities; and

23 WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify the state's role
24 in the protection and restoration of public waters in the
25 event of natural disasters; and

1 WHEREAS, the state, as a steward for this valuable
2 resource, must plan and manage this resource to ensure its
3 availability for current and future generations; now
4 therefore,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
6 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the waters of the state, as
7 defined in the Alabama Water Resources Act, are a natural
8 resource of the state and subject to the state's sovereign
9 power to plan and manage the withdrawal and use of those
10 waters, under law, in order to protect public health, safety,
11 and welfare by promoting economic growth, mitigating the
12 harmful effects of drought, resolving conflicts among
13 competing water users, achieving balance between consumptive
14 and non-consumptive uses of water, encouraging conservation,
15 preventing significant degradation of natural environments,
16 and enhancing the productivity of water-related activities.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama Office of
18 Water Resources is requested to work with other agencies to
19 ensure that this stewardship role is reflected in on-going
20 efforts to enhance water resource planning and management in
21 Alabama.

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Senate

Introduced and referred to the Senate committee on Rules.....	07-FEB-12
Reported from Rules.....	26-APR-12
Read for the third time and adopted as amended ...	26-APR-12

Patrick Harris
Secretary