

WHEREAS: During the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly, the Members considered House Resolution 1276, a proposal to amend Article VII, Section I of the Georgia Constitution by amending Paragraph III; and

WHEREAS: On March 31, 2008, the Georgia State Senate, by a vote of 46 yeas and 1 nay, adopted House Resolution 1276 by the requisite two-thirds of the Members of the Senate; and

WHEREAS: On April 2, 2008, the Georgia House of Representatives, by a vote of 164 yeas and 0 nays, adopted House Resolution 1276 by the requisite two-thirds of the Members of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, both houses having adopted identical versions of House Resolution 1276 by the requisite constitutional majorities, the proposal was submitted to the electors of the entire State at the General Election of November 4, 2008; and

WHEREAS: The proposed amendment appeared on the General Election ballot as "Constitutional Amendment 1" and stated, "Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide that the General Assembly by general law shall encourage the preservation, conservation, and protection of the state's forests through the special assessment and taxation of certain forest lands and assistance grants to local government?"; and

WHEREAS: On November 4, 2008, the electors of the entire State voted as follows: 2,454,508 electors voted "Yes"; 1,154,695 electors voted "No"; and

WHEREAS: The Secretary of State certified the above results and laid them before the Governor; and

WHEREAS: O.C.G.A. § 21-2-502 (f) requires the Governor to issue a proclamation declaring the results of the vote of each constitutional amendment submitted to the electors of the entire State; now

THEREFORE: I, Sonny Perdue, Governor of the State of Georgia, pursuant to the Constitution and statutes of this State, do hereby proclaim that a majority of the electors having voted in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment, Constitutional Amendment 1 is duly ratified. Furthermore, pursuant to Article X, Section I, Paragraph VI of the State Constitution, the resolution proposing the amendment providing no other date, Constitutional Amendment 1 shall become effective January 1, 2009.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.