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**SENATE RESEARCH OFFICE**

 **2015 Session March 13, 2015**

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| **Bill:**  SB 36 | **Sponsor:**  Senator Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd and others |
| **Version:** SB 36/CSFA/2 | **Amends:**  Title 12 |
| **Status:**  As Passed Senate As Amended | **Committee:** Natural Resources and Environment |

**“UNDERGROUND WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION ACT OF 2015”**

**SUMMARY**

* Requires the Board of Natural Resources to adopt rules and regulations which protect and preserve the Floridan aquifer, including any restrictions or prohibitions on aquifer storage and recovery where necessary.

**ANALYSIS**

Current law places a moratorium on the use of wells or boreholes for the purpose of injecting surface water into the Floridan aquifer in any county governed by the Georgia coastal zone management program;[[1]](#footnote-1) however, this moratorium expired on July 1, 2014.

This bill requires the Board of Natural Resources, on or before July 1, 2016, to adopt regulations that provide for the protection and preservation of the Floridan aquifer. These regulations must include restrictions or prohibitions on aquifer storage and recovery where necessary to preserve the physical and chemical integrity of the Floridan aquifer.

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1. According to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division’s website, the Georgia Coastal Management Program includes the following eleven counties:  Brantley, Bryan, Camden, Charlton, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, and Wayne. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)