

Senate Resolution 44

By: Senators Golden of the 8th, Harbison of the 15th and Hooks of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Re-creating the Blue Ribbon Commission on State Government Decentralization; to provide
2 for the membership, powers, duties, and mission of the commission; to provide for related
3 matters; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, a number of factors make the potential decentralization of state government an
5 important subject for consideration by the General Assembly; and

6 WHEREAS, the relevant factors include, among others, increasing potential for
7 decentralization due to technological and communications advances; potential cost savings
8 to the state in moving facilities and functions out of high cost areas; potential economic
9 benefits to lesser developed areas of the state through moving facilities and functions to such
10 areas; and potential improved accessibility of facilities and functions to citizens through
11 physical relocation and enhanced electronic access; and

12 WHEREAS, consideration of decentralization has been a recurring theme in state
13 government in recent years; there still exists no thorough and up-to-date overall legislative
14 study of this matter.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 GEORGIA that there is re-created the Blue Ribbon Commission on State Government
17 Decentralization to be composed of 15 members, as follows: three members of the Senate
18 appointed by the President of the Senate; four additional members appointed by the President
19 of the Senate; three members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House; four
20 additional members appointed by the Speaker of the House; and the executive director of the
21 State Properties Commission. Any vacancy on the commission, including a vacancy caused
22 by a legislative member ceasing to serve in the Senate or House, shall be filled by
23 appointment by the original appointing authority. The President of the Senate and the

1 Speaker of the House shall each designate one member to serve as the cochairs of the
2 commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the cochairs.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to normal legislative staff support services,
4 the commission shall make use of staff support services provided by the Carl Vinson Institute
5 of Government of the University of Georgia.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the
7 conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend
8 any actions or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate. The
9 commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
10 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
11 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative
12 members of the commission shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
13 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than ten days unless
14 additional days are authorized. The public members of the commission who are not public
15 employees shall receive from legislative funds a daily expense allowance as provided in
16 subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21. Any public employee on the commission shall
17 receive no compensation from legislative funds but may be reimbursed for expenses by their
18 employers. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
19 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate. The commission
20 shall report on its progress to the 2001 and the 2002 sessions of the General Assembly and
21 shall set targets for the number of state positions to be moved out of metropolitan Atlanta.
22 The commission shall stand abolished on July 1, 2002.