

Senate Resolution 724

By: Senator Golden of the 8th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Legislative and Public Task Force on Georgia's Employment Security Law
2 and providing for the powers and duties of such task force; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's "Employment Security Law" provides the basic framework for
4 administering the state's unemployment insurance program; and

5 WHEREAS, the primary objective of the unemployment insurance program is to provide
6 temporary monetary benefits to unemployed Georgia workers who have lost their jobs
7 through no fault of their own; and

8 WHEREAS, the "Employment Security Law" was originally adopted in 1937 and, through
9 amendments, changing economic conditions, and federal and state administrative changes,
10 has become increasingly complex.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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14 There is created the Joint Legislative and Public Task Force on Revising Georgia's
15 Employment Security Law which shall consist of 15 members as follows:

- 16 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
17 House of Representatives;
- 18 (2) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 19 (3) Three members of the business community to be appointed by the Governor;
- 20 (4) Three members of organized labor to be appointed by the Governor;
- 21 (5) Two members representing the legal profession; and
- 22 (6) Three citizen members from the public at large who have some knowledge of
23 unemployment insurance programs in other states to be appointed by the Governor.

SECTION 2.

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2 The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each
3 designate one of their appointed members as cochairpersons of the task force. The task force
4 may elect such other officers as it deems advisable and shall establish such quorum,
5 attendance, and other rules as it deems necessary.

SECTION 3.

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7 (a) The task force shall study all relevant aspects of the unemployment insurance program
8 including funding and the eligibility requirements and, in particular, shall focus its study on
9 the Unemployment Trust Fund and tax rate and benefit structure. The goal of the task force
10 is to ensure the efficient delivery of services under the unemployment insurance program
11 both to employers and unemployed Georgians.

12 (b) The task force shall make a report of its findings and recommendations for the
13 improvement of Georgia's unemployment insurance program, including any proposed
14 legislation, to the Governor and all members of the General Assembly on or before
15 December 31, 2002; provided, however, that with the approval of the Speaker of the House
16 of Representatives and the President of the Senate, such task force may remain operative and
17 continue its study until December 31, 2003, at which time it shall make its recommendations.

SECTION 4.

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19 All members of the task force shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
20 travel and other expenses in carrying out their official duties at the same rate as state officials
21 and employees, except that any legislative members of the commission shall be reimbursed
22 for travel and other expenses from legislative funds at the same rate and in the same manner
23 as members of the General Assembly who attend meetings of interim legislative committees.
24 All members of the task force except members of the General Assembly shall be reimbursed
25 for such expenses from funds appropriated or available to the Department of Labor. The task
26 force may meet at such times and places within the State of Georgia as the task force deems
27 necessary.

SECTION 5.

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29 The Commissioner of Labor shall provide staff assistance to the task force.

SECTION 6.

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31 The cochairpersons of the task force may designate and appoint committees to perform such
32 functions as they may determine to be necessary. The task force may, either by itself or

1 through such committees, hold hearings and take any other action necessary or desirable to
2 collect data and obtain information.

3 **SECTION 7.**

4 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
5 appropriated or available to the Department of Labor, except as otherwise provided by this
6 resolution.

7 **SECTION 8.**

8 This task force shall stand abolished January 1, 2003, and this resolution shall stand repealed
9 on January 1, 2003; provided, however, that if such task force is continued for an additional
10 year as provided in Section 3 of this resolution, the task force shall stand abolished on
11 January 1, 2004, and this resolution shall stand repealed on January 1, 2004.