

Senate Resolution 826

By: Senator Williams of the 6th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Jekyll Island; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Jekyll Island was purchased by the State of Georgia under Governor M.E.
3 Thompson in 1947, and the General Assembly created the Jekyll Island—State Park
4 Authority to oversee development and maintenance of the 11,000 acre island in 1950; and

5 WHEREAS, the legislature gave the authority a 99 year lease for use of these state-owned
6 land in return for a \$1.00 annual lease payment; and the authority was authorized to improve,
7 beautify, and develop Jekyll Island State Park to make it self-supporting; and

8 WHEREAS, Jekyll Island has residents who pay long-term leases to the state as well as
9 property taxes to Glynn County; and many of these leases will come due in the near future
10 and could make transferring, refinancing, or selling the property difficult; and

11 WHEREAS, the Island has an abundance of historical property and several fine golf courses
12 that need state funding for renovation and promotion as tourist attractions; and

13 WHEREAS, 65 percent of the Island is composed of natural areas which need to be protected
14 as habitats for wildlife, nesting birds, and turtles in order to protect the beauty and tranquility
15 of this special state resource; and

16 WHEREAS, business owners and residents are concerned about the future of their
17 investments on the Island; confusion exists as to the use of special purpose local option sales
18 tax monies (SPLOST) for projects on the Island; and the State of Georgia needs to engage
19 in extensive planning regarding the funding and future of Jekyll Island.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Jekyll Island to be composed
22 of six members, consisting of three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed

1 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate to be
2 appointed by the President of the Senate. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
3 designate one of the two members of the House and the President of the Senate shall
4 designate one of the two members of the Senate who shall serve as cochairpersons of the
5 committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
7 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
8 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
9 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
10 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
11 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
12 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
13 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than ten days unless additional
14 days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall
15 come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate. In the event
16 the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
17 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2002. The
18 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2002.