

House Resolution 263

By: Representatives Harbin of the 113th and Jackson of the 112th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Commission on Water Management; to provide for the membership,
2 powers, duties, and mission of the commission; to provide for related matters; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, water is a natural resource that is necessary for life and health as well as
5 industry, transportation, recreation, and other purposes; and

6 WHEREAS, as Georgia has increased in population and development, the demand for water
7 has grown and placed great stress on the ability of existing sources to meet the growing need
8 for water; and

9 WHEREAS, many political subdivisions are diverting water from one river basin to another
10 in an attempt to meet the need for adequate water supplies and are affecting the natural flows
11 of water and allowing growth to occur in areas where resources are lacking instead of having
12 growth where the resources exist; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a continuing and worsening problem with the pollution and
14 contamination of our water supplies and sources; and

15 WHEREAS, the droughts of previous years have imposed an additional strain on our water
16 resources; and

17 WHEREAS, there is a compelling need to develop a state-wide plan for the management of
18 water and water resources in Georgia and to address the inter-basin transfers of water.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Commission on Water Management to be
21 composed of 18 members, as follows: four members of the Senate appointed by the President
22 of the Senate; four members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House; four

1 members appointed by the Governor; the chairperson of the Senate Natural Resources
2 Committee and the chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources and the
3 Environment who shall be cochairpersons of the study committee; and the director of the
4 Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, the
5 Commissioner of Natural Resources, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the executive
6 director of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Any vacancy on the
7 commission, including a vacancy caused by a legislative member ceasing to serve in the
8 Senate or House, shall be filled by appointment by the original appointing authority. The
9 commission shall meet at the call of the cochairs.

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

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the
14 conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto, to specifically
15 include, but not be limited to, the development of a comprehensive water management plan
16 for the state and the development of policies regarding the inter-basin transfers of water, and
17 recommend any actions or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate.
18 The commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
19 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
20 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative
21 members of the commission shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
22 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than 12 days unless
23 additional days are authorized. The public members of the commission who are not public
24 employees shall receive from legislative funds a daily expense allowance as provided in
25 subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21. Any public employee on the commission shall
26 receive no compensation from legislative funds but may be reimbursed for expenses by their
27 employers. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
28 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate. In the event the
29 commission makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
30 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2001. The
31 commission shall stand abolished on December 31, 2001.