

## House Resolution 345

By: Representative Parham of the 122<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Re-creating the Joint Study Committee on Historic Local Government Records; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Joint Study Committee on Historic Local Government Records was created  
4 by the 2000 General Assembly and charged with pursuing a thorough legislative study of the  
5 present condition of the valuable and historic records dating back to 1732 which document  
6 life in Georgia to determine how to ensure their preservation and accessibility for future  
7 generations and to identify what legislative initiatives would better enable the legislature,  
8 state agencies, and local governments to preserve this valuable and unique historical  
9 resource; and

10 WHEREAS, the committee did initiate the study of historical local government records,  
11 meeting with records officials and interested parties in Atlanta, Columbus, and Savannah;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, during the course of study, certain historical record needs became clear from  
14 the various reports and testimony submitted to the committee, including the need for a  
15 consistent and reliable funding source; more coordinated development of a state-wide records  
16 management program providing for training, grant funding assistance, and records  
17 consultation, as well as general standards and guidelines; and for more adequate storage and  
18 access for local records through either a centralized or decentralized system of regional  
19 facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, the committee determined and reported to the General Assembly that more  
21 work on several issues remains to be done, including: a review of legislation from other  
22 states regarding public records and their support, development of a funding mechanism to  
23 support Georgia's local government records, consideration and development of a plan for  
24 centralized or decentralized records storage alternatives, and a resolution to other issues  
25 raised by hearing participants; and

1 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly recognizes its role and responsibility in assuring  
2 that these valuable, historic, and irreplaceable records are properly protected and preserved  
3 for their long-term use and accessibility by this and future generations of this state; and

4 WHEREAS, the need continues for a thorough legislative study of the present condition of  
5 these valuable and historic records to determine how to ensure their preservation and  
6 accessibility for future generations and what legislative initiatives would better enable the  
7 legislature, state agencies, and local governments to preserve this valuable and unique  
8 historical resource.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
10 GEORGIA that there is re-created the Joint Study Committee on Historic Local Government  
11 Records to be composed of three members from the House of Representatives to be  
12 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three members from the Senate  
13 to be appointed by the President of the Senate, two nonlegislative members appointed by the  
14 Governor from the local government or historical community, and the Secretary of State.  
15 The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House and the  
16 President of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate who shall serve as  
17 cochairpersons of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.  
18 The Secretary of State, the Legislative Counsel, and the House and Senate research offices  
19 shall assist the work of the committee.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall continue a study of the current  
21 conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to the preservation and accessibility of  
22 historic local records throughout the State of Georgia. The committee may conduct such  
23 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable  
24 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the  
25 objectives and purposes of this resolution. Legislative members of the committee shall  
26 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the O.C.G.A., and  
27 nonlegislative members of the committee who are not state officials or employees shall  
28 receive a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section  
29 45-7-21 of the O.C.G.A., but all such members shall receive the allowances for not more than  
30 five days unless additional days are authorized. Members of the committee who are state  
31 officials or employees, other than legislative members, shall receive no compensation for  
32 their service on the committee but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the  
33 performance of their duties as members of the committee. The funds necessary for the  
34 reimbursement of the expenses of state officials or employees, other than legislative

1 members, shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective  
2 departments. All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall  
3 come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The  
4 committee shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for  
5 proposed legislation, if any, on or before December 1, 2001, on which date the committee  
6 shall stand abolished.