

House Resolution 457

By: Representatives Day of the 153rd, Bordeaux of the 151st, Pelote of the 149th and Mueller of the 152nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Savannah-Chatham County Governmental Consolidation Study Committee;
2 providing for membership by appointees of the affected local governments and other
3 members; providing for meetings and operations; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the consolidation of local governments or local governmental services may
5 present opportunities for improvements in governmental economy and efficiency, as well as
6 improvements in service delivery; and

7 WHEREAS, there exists a need for a study to determine whether such consolidation of
8 governmental units or services or both could provide such improvements in the City of
9 Savannah and Chatham County.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 GEORGIA that there is created the Savannah-Chatham County Governmental Consolidation
12 Study Committee to be composed of 12 members as follows: two members who shall not
13 hold any elected office who shall be appointed by the governing authority of the City of
14 Savannah; two members who shall not hold any elected office who shall be appointed by the
15 governing authority of Chatham County; and eight members who shall be appointed one each
16 by the members of the General Assembly representing Chatham County in the General
17 Assembly. No municipality in Chatham County other than Savannah shall be represented
18 on the committee. The cochairs of the committee shall be designated one each by the
19 governing authorities of Chatham County and Savannah. The cochairs shall call all meetings
20 of the committee.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the General Assembly representing
22 Chatham County in the General Assembly shall receive notice of all meetings of the
23 committee and shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the committee as additional ex
24 officio, nonvoting, advisory members thereof.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
2 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related. Such study shall include a thorough
3 examination of all current consolidated governments in this state. The committee shall
4 prepare a report which includes a recommendation as to whether a form of consolidation is
5 appropriate and desirable for Savannah and Chatham County, and, if so, what forms would
6 be appropriate and desirable. The committee shall not consider or make recommendations
7 with respect to any municipality in Chatham County except Savannah. The committee may
8 seek the advice and assistance of whatever sources of information and expertise it deems
9 appropriate, including but not limited to the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and a
10 facilitator. The committee shall recommend any other action or legislation relative to
11 consolidation which it deems necessary or appropriate. The members of the committee shall
12 receive no compensation or expenses for their services. The committee shall provide a report
13 of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to
14 each member of the Chatham County legislative delegation. Such reports shall be made on
15 or before December 31, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on midnight December
16 31, 2001.