

House Resolution 463

By: Representatives Stanley of the 49th and Brooks of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Gaming; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, gambling, with certain exceptions, is illegal in the State of Georgia; and
- 3 WHEREAS, surrounding states, such as Alabama, North Carolina, and Mississippi, have
4 legalized various games of chance, including pari-mutuel betting and casino gambling; and
- 5 WHEREAS, it is likely that other neighboring states will follow this trend; and
- 6 WHEREAS, much needed revenue is being taken out of the State of Georgia by the
7 neighboring states that have already legalized various forms of gambling; and
- 8 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Georgia and its cities remain competitive in the gaming
9 industry; and
- 10 WHEREAS, jurisdictions throughout the country are searching for alternative ways to fund
11 government services without increasing property taxes; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta's budget is especially challenged in the post-Olympic years;
13 and
- 14 WHEREAS, that area known as Underground Atlanta, which the City of Atlanta has been
15 successful in developing as a profitable enterprise, would be a possible site for such a
16 venture; and
- 17 WHEREAS, other cities in Georgia, such as Augusta, Columbus, Dalton, Macon, Savannah,
18 and Valdosta, might benefit from tourism dollars if more games of chance were available in
19 this state; and

1 WHEREAS, public safety initiatives in Atlanta and elsewhere are in need of an additional
2 infusion of funds; and

3 WHEREAS, revenues garnered from ventures such as casino gambling and pari-mutuel
4 betting could be used for public safety purposes; and

5 WHEREAS, this is a proposal that should be given intensive study on its merits.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
7 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Gaming to be composed of 20
8 members, consisting of two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives; two members of the Senate to be appointed by the
10 President of the Senate; one member from the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau; the
11 mayors of and one member from the chamber of commerce of each of the cities of Atlanta,
12 Augusta, Columbus, Dalton, Macon, Savannah, and Valdosta, or their designees; and the
13 commissioner of industry, trade, and tourism, or his or her designee. The Speaker of the
14 House of Representatives shall designate one of the two members of the House and the
15 President of the Senate shall designate one of the two members of the Senate who shall serve
16 as cochairpersons of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the
17 cochairpersons.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall explore the feasibility of expanding
19 legal gaming in the State of Georgia to include pari-mutuel betting and casino gambling and
20 shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or
21 related thereto and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee deems
22 necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at
23 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
24 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
25 resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances
26 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the
27 same for not more than 20 days unless additional days are authorized; and the nonlegislative
28 members of the committee shall serve without compensation. The funds necessary to carry
29 out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of
30 Representatives and Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
31 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
32 made on or before December 31, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on December
33 31, 2001.