

The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to HR 174:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Hazardous Sites Response Act Reauthorization Study Committee; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the natural environment is a precious resource of this state and its protection is
4 a crucial component to the future prosperity of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, the protection of human health is of utmost concern to the Environmental
6 Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Division is charged with protecting human health
8 and the environment from release of hazardous waste, hazardous constituents, and hazardous
9 materials from hazardous sites; and

10 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Division protects human health and the
11 environment from releases at hazardous sites through the use of the Hazardous Waste Trust
12 Fund which is funded by fees on hazardous waste, hazardous substances, and solid waste;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia Program Evaluation of the Sufficiency of the Hazardous
15 Waste Trust Fund, prepared December, 1999, by the Department of Audits and Accounts,
16 showed a \$213.6 million shortfall in funding under the current fee structure; and

17 WHEREAS, the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund will not have enough funding to protect
18 human health and the environment from releases at hazardous sites if additional funding is
19 not obtained; and

20 WHEREAS, the fees will sunset on July 1, 2003, if they are not reauthorized by the General
21 Assembly; and

1 WHEREAS, an overall comprehensive study should be undertaken to assist the General
2 Assembly in determining the need for additional funding for the Hazardous Waste Trust
3 Fund.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Hazardous Sites Response Act Reauthorization
6 Study Committee. The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate,
7 one of whom shall serve as cochairperson of the committee. The President of the Senate
8 shall also appoint three additional persons to the committee, one representing the interests
9 of environmental groups, one representing the interests of business and industry, and one
10 representing the interests of municipal corporations. The Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives shall appoint three members of the House, one of whom shall serve as
12 cochairperson of the committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also
13 appoint three additional persons to the committee, one representing the interests of
14 environmental groups, one representing the interests of business and industry, and one
15 representing the interests of counties. The director of the Environmental Protection Division
16 of the Department of Natural Resources shall serve as a member of the committee and shall
17 provide information as requested by the committee; provided, however, that the director shall
18 have no vote on any matter before the committee. The cochairpersons shall call all meetings
19 of the committee.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
21 needs, issues, and problems regarding the funding shortfall mentioned above or related
22 thereto, including a review of experience with the Hazardous Sites Response Act to date to
23 determine what improvements might allow for more cost effective results, and recommend
24 any actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The
25 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
26 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
27 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the
28 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
29 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
30 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
31 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of
32 Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
33 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
34 made on or before December 1, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on December
35 1, 2001.