

House Resolution 484 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Orrock of the 56th, Smith of the 12th and Allen of the 117th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Commission on Work Force Security and Enhancement in the New Georgia
2 Economy; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's employers and employees are reliant upon each other for their mutual
4 economic success; and

5 WHEREAS, the viability of the state's employment security system is dependent upon
6 maintaining a solvent unemployment trust fund supported by fair employer contributions;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the federal unemployment insurance system was instituted in 1935 as an income
9 support program tailored to meet the needs of the work force and economy prevailing at that
10 time; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia's employment security system was established to assist job seekers in
12 securing suitable employment and to assist employers in obtaining qualified workers to meet
13 workplace needs; and

14 WHEREAS, the state's employment security system is intended to provide qualified citizens
15 who lose their jobs through no fault of their own with access to limited, employer-funded
16 assistance while they seek new employment or wait for reemployment and to lessen the
17 impact of an economic downturn on the broader community; and

18 WHEREAS, the public policy of this state is and has been that economic insecurity due to
19 unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals, and welfare of the people of this
20 state; that involuntary unemployment requires appropriate action by the General Assembly
21 to prevent its spread and to lighten its burden which so often falls with crushing force upon
22 the unemployed worker or the worker's family and that the achievement of social security
23 requires protection against this greatest hazard of our economic life by the systematic

1 accumulation of funds during periods of employment to provide benefits for periods of
2 unemployment; and

3 WHEREAS, advances in technology and expansion of international trade have forged a new
4 economy and changed the nature of work; and

5 WHEREAS, the composition of Georgia's work force has become more diverse since the
6 institution of federal and state income support and security programs, with the inclusion of
7 increased numbers of women, minorities, the disabled, and the elderly; and

8 WHEREAS, the composition of the work force has been further changed in recent years as
9 a result of welfare reform, immigration, and other factors to include increasing numbers of
10 new entrants who are low-skilled and low-wage workers and the State of Georgia has a
11 continuing and abiding interest in strengthening the attachment of these individuals to the
12 work force; and

13 WHEREAS, much debate has occurred concerning the role and effectiveness of federal and
14 state income support and economic security programs in facilitating worker and employer
15 adjustment to rapidly changing economic circumstances and the adequacy of the design of
16 such programs; and

17 WHEREAS, any effort to restructure existing income support and economic security
18 programs should include strategies for accommodating the changing needs of workers and
19 employers in a changing economy; and

20 WHEREAS, any effort to restructure existing income support and economic security
21 programs should include careful analysis and consideration of methods that enhance the
22 administration of income support and economic security programs; and

23 WHEREAS, an opportunity should be provided for members of the General Assembly to
24 study and consider these issues and options to address them, with the assistance and advice
25 of employers, labor and other community stakeholders, with the aim of ensuring the
26 continued prosperity of Georgia's economy and its work force; and

27 WHEREAS, such a study should include consideration of strategies for assisting workers and
28 employers in adjusting to changing economic conditions and changes in the mix of
29 employment opportunities; and

1 WHEREAS, such a study should also include consideration of the role of public-private
2 partnerships in implementing worker education and job training and community assistance;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the foregoing changes necessitate new strategies for providing workplace
5 education and training to assist workers in acquiring new skills.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
7 GEORGIA that there is created the Commission on Work Force Security and Enhancement
8 in the New Georgia Economy to be composed of 17 members as follows: three members of
9 the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker thereof; three members of the Senate
10 appointed by the President thereof; five members appointed by the Governor, to include
11 representatives of the state Department of Technical and Adult Education, the University
12 System of Georgia, and the public schools, and two additional members; five members
13 appointed by the Commissioner of Labor from the business, labor, and general community;
14 and the Commissioner of Labor who shall chair the commission. The commission shall meet
15 at the call of the chair.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to normal legislative staff support services,
17 the commission shall make use of staff support services provided by the Department of
18 Labor.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the
20 conditions, needs, issues, and problems described in this resolution and issues related thereto
21 and may recommend any actions or legislation which the commission deems appropriate.
22 The commission is authorized to conduct meetings at such places and at such times as it
23 considers expedient and to do all other things consistent with this resolution which are
24 necessary or convenient to enable it to fully and adequately exercise its powers, perform its
25 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. Departments and
26 agencies of the state are authorized to furnish such assistance to the commission as the
27 commission deems appropriate. Legislative members shall receive expenses and allowances
28 authorized by law for members of interim legislative committees for their services on the
29 commission. Members of the commission who are state officials, other than legislative
30 members, and state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
31 commission but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of
32 their duties as members of the commission. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of
33 the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and their state employees,

1 shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments.
2 All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the
3 funds appropriated to or otherwise available to the Senate and House of Representatives.
4 The commission shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
5 for proposed legislation, if any, on or before December 31, 2001. The commission shall
6 stand abolished on December 31, 2001.