

Senate Resolution 134

By: Senators Walker of the 22nd, Dean of the 31st, Gillis of the 20th, Hooks of the 14th,
Harbison of the 15th and Stokes of the 43rd

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Prevention and Emergency Care of Injuries in
2 Georgia; creating the Joint Study Committee on Georgia Border Communities; and creating
3 the Commission on Work Force Security and Enhancement in the New Georgia Economy;
4 and for other purposes.

5 **PART I**

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is concerned with protecting the health of the citizens of
7 Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, unintentional injuries resulting from motor vehicle collisions, bicycle and
9 pedestrian mishaps, falls, fires, and other causes result in 2,800 deaths every year in Georgia;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, unintentional injuries are the most common cause of death among children and
12 young adults (ages 1-34) in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, unintentional injury death rates in most Georgia counties are higher than in the
14 United States as a whole; and

15 WHEREAS, unintentional injuries are a leading cause of hospitalization and permanent
16 disability; and

17 WHEREAS, the costs of unintentional injuries include not only medical care but costs of
18 rehabilitation and loss of wages; and

1 WHEREAS, unintentional injuries can be prevented via education of the public,
2 implementation of specific injury prevention programs, and implementation of laws and
3 regulations; and

4 WHEREAS, programs exist which have been proven effective in preventing unintentional
5 injuries; and

6 WHEREAS, skilled on-site treatment, rapid transport, and the availability of specialized
7 trauma treatment centers can reduce death and permanent disability from all types of injuries;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, effective public health surveillance programs can guide the type and placement
10 of unintentional injury prevention programs, emergency transport, and trauma treatment
11 centers.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on the Prevention and Emergency
14 Care of Injuries in Georgia to be composed of three members of the Senate to be appointed
15 by the President of the Senate; three members of the House of Representatives to be
16 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Director of the Governor's
17 Office of Highway Safety or such person's designee; the Director of the Division of Public
18 Health of the Department of Human Resources or such person's designee; the President of
19 the Georgia Hospital Association or such person's designee; a representative of the Medical
20 Association of Georgia and Georgia State Medical Association or that person's designee; the
21 Executive Director of Safe Kids of Georgia or such person's designee; the Director of
22 Children's Trust Fund or such person's designee; the Commissioner of the State Department
23 of Community Health; and the Director of the Injury Control Center of the Rollins School
24 of Public Health or such person's designee to be appointed by the Governor with such
25 person's consent. The Governor shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
26 of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
28 needs, issues, and problems associated with the prevention of unintentional injuries,
29 emergency transport, and emergency treatment of injured persons. The committee may
30 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
31 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
32 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee

1 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
2 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
3 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
4 from the funds appropriated to the Senate and House of Representatives. In the event the
5 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
6 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2001. The
7 committee shall stand abolished on December 15, 2001.

8 **PART II**

9 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has a significant number of communities that border other
10 states; and

11 WHEREAS, these border communities are facing a number of serious problems related to
12 their geographical proximity to other states; and

13 WHEREAS, the disparity in economic incentives, revenue, taxes, and benefits is having a
14 substantial impact on these border communities; and

15 WHEREAS, studying how states bordering these communities deal with questions of
16 property tax abatement, salary structure, and tax incentives, among other issues, would help
17 guide the development of programs to improve the quality of life in border communities as
18 well as the entire state.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Georgia Border Communities
21 to be composed of three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the
22 Senate and three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
23 of the House of Representatives. The Governor shall designate a member of the committee
24 as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
26 needs, issues, and problems related to being a border community including the impact on
27 new and current businesses on increases in salaries; a comparison of the flexibilities that
28 other states have in dealing with questions of property tax abatement; and the possibility of
29 establishing a partnership similar to "The Alabama Partnership." The committee may
30 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

1 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
2 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
3 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
4 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
5 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from
6 the funds appropriated to the Senate and House of Representatives. In the event the
7 committee makes a report of its finding and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
8 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2001. The committee
9 shall stand abolished on December 15, 2001.

10 **PART III**

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

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, the public policy of this state is and has been that economic insecurity due to
27 unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals, and welfare of the people of this
28 state; that involuntary unemployment requires appropriate action by the General Assembly
29 to prevent its spread and to lighten its burden which so often falls with crushing force upon
30 the unemployed worker or the worker's family and that the achievement of social security

1 requires protection against this greatest hazard of our economic life by the systematic
2 accumulation of funds during periods of employment to provide benefits for periods of
3 unemployment; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the
23 conditions, needs, issues, and problems described in this resolution and issues related thereto
24 and may recommend any actions or legislation which the commission deems appropriate.
25 The commission is authorized to conduct meetings at such places and at such times as it
26 considers expedient and to do all other things consistent with this resolution which are
27 necessary or convenient to enable it to fully and adequately exercise its powers, perform its
28 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. Departments and
29 agencies of the state are authorized to furnish such assistance to the commission as the
30 commission deems appropriate. Legislative members shall receive expenses and allowances
31 authorized by law for members of interim legislative committees for their services on the
32 commission. Members of the commission who are state officials, other than legislative

1 members, and state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
2 commission but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of
3 their duties as members of the commission. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of
4 the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and their state employees,
5 shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments.
6 All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the
7 funds appropriated to or otherwise available to the Senate and House of Representatives.
8 The commission shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
9 for proposed legislation, if any, on or before December 31, 2001. The commission shall
10 stand abolished on December 31, 2001.