

House Resolution 24

By: Representatives Day of the 126th, Stephens of the 123rd, Burmeister of the 96th,
Graves of the 106th, Roberts of the 131st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on State Government Decentralization; to provide for
2 the membership, powers, duties, and mission of the committee; to provide for related matters;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, a number of factors make the potential decentralization of state government an
5 important subject for consideration by the General Assembly; and

6 WHEREAS, the relevant factors include, among others, increasing potential for
7 decentralization due to technological and communications advances; potential cost savings
8 to the state in moving facilities and functions out of high cost areas; potential economic
9 benefits to lesser developed areas of the state through moving facilities and functions to such
10 areas; and potential improved accessibility of facilities and functions to citizens through
11 physical relocation and enhanced electronic access; and

12 WHEREAS, consideration of decentralization has been a recurring theme in state
13 government in recent years; there still exists no thorough and up-to-date overall legislative
14 study of this matter.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on State Government
17 Decentralization to be composed of 8 members, as follows: four members of the Senate
18 appointed by the Senate Committee on Assignments and four members of the House of
19 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House. Any vacancy on the committee shall
20 be filled by appointment by the original appointing authority. The Senate Committee on
21 Assignments and the Speaker of the House shall each designate one member to serve as the
22 cochairs of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairs.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to normal legislative staff support services,
2 the committee shall be authorized to make use of staff support services provided by the Carl
3 Vinson Institute of Government of the University of Georgia.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
5 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
6 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
7 make a county-by-county recommendation of preferred locations on an agency-by-agency
8 basis. The committee shall be authorized to request from each county a list of surplus
9 buildings, and preferred locations for agencies. The committee shall be authorized to request
10 that each head of each state department or agency shall participate as an ex officio member
11 of the committee. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such
12 times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively
13 its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
14 The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code
15 Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Ex officio members of the
16 committee who are state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall
17 receive no compensation for their services on the committee, but they shall be reimbursed
18 for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the
19 committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state
20 officials or employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state
21 officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds
22 appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments. All other funds
23 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
24 to the House of Representative and the Senate. The expenses and allowances authorized by
25 this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than 14 days
26 unless additional days are authorized. The committee shall make a report of its findings and
27 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, on or before December
28 1, 2003. The final report shall include a recommendation with respect to every state
29 department or agency and shall include a fiscal analysis of the cost of relocation. Such
30 analysis shall include, but not be limited to, a comparison of square footage costs and a
31 suggested timeline for implementing the relocations. The committee shall stand abolished
32 on December 1, 2003.