

House Resolution 408

By: Representative Morris of the 120th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Legislative and Congressional Redistricting; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the states to redistrict their legislatures and Congressional
4 delegations in the year following the release of the results of the decennial census; and

5 WHEREAS, in many states, this process has resulted in highly factionalized, partisan map
6 drawing that produces crazy quilt districts and increases confusion among citizens over
7 where their districts are located and who represents them; and

8 WHEREAS, some states have developed methods for redistricting their legislatures and
9 Congressional delegations to minimize this problem by using independent, nonpartisan
10 commissions to implement redistricting or to recommend redistricting plans to the legislature
11 for action; and

12 WHEREAS, dissatisfaction with the current legislative and Congressional redistricting
13 process in Georgia has been expressed by many of our citizens as well as the legislators
14 affected by the process; and

15 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the State of Georgia to consider the adoption of such
16 an independent, nonpartisan commission for redistricting in Georgia.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Legislative and Congressional
19 Redistricting to be composed of 12 members: three members to be appointed by the Speaker
20 of the House of Representatives, three members to be appointed by the President of the
21 Senate, three members to be appointed by the Governor, and three members to be appointed
22 by the chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. The members shall be citizens of this
23 state and shall not have held any partisan political office or served as an appointed or elected

1 officer of any political party or body. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
2 President of the Senate shall each designate a member who shall serve as cochairpersons of
3 the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the issues
5 mentioned above and any other issues related thereto and recommend any actions or
6 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
7 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
8 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
9 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
10 shall receive the allowances authorized herein but shall receive the same for not more than
11 ten days unless additional days are authorized. Citizen members shall receive a daily
12 expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the
13 Official Code of Georgia Annotated as well as the mileage or transportation allowance
14 authorized for state employees. Members of the committee who are state officials and state
15 employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee, but they shall
16 be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members
17 of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities
18 as state officials or employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses
19 of state officials and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
20 available to their respective departments. The other funds necessary to carry out the
21 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of
22 Representatives and Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
23 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
24 made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished on
25 December 31, 2004.