

Senate Resolution 323

By: Senator Fort of the 39th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Sandy Springs Study Commission; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, there are pending at the 2003 session of the General Assembly several proposals
3 relating to incorporation of a new City of Sandy Springs in Fulton County; and

4 WHEREAS, it is generally agreed that, if created, such new city would constitute the seventh
5 largest city in the State of Georgia, thereby creating a dramatic impact on other local
6 governments in and around Fulton County; and

7 WHEREAS, potential issues relating to the creation of such a city include its impact on
8 existing local revenue sources and their distribution to existing local governments; its impact
9 on potential future revenue sources for existing local governments; and the delivery of local
10 government services in and around the affected area; and

11 WHEREAS, there exists a need for public hearings and thorough study prior to any
12 legislative action on this subject.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

14 SECTION 1.

15 (a) There is created the Senate Sandy Springs Study Commission. The commission shall
16 consist of the following members:

17 (1) Two members appointed by the Senate Committee on Assignments;

18 (2) Two members appointed by the governing authority of the City of Atlanta;

19 (3) Two members appointed by the governing authority of Fulton County;

20 (4) Two members selected by a caucus of the mayors of the existing municipal
21 corporations in Fulton County other than the City of Atlanta; and

22 (5) The chairperson of the Fulton County Senate Delegation in the General Assembly who
23 shall serve as chairperson of the commission.

1 (b) The commission may elect such other officers as it deems appropriate. The initial
2 meeting of the commission shall be at the call of the chairperson. The commission may adopt
3 such bylaws or procedures for the conduct of its business as it deems appropriate.

4 (c) The Department of Community Affairs is requested to provide staff services to the
5 commission.

6 (d) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation of any kind, except
7 that any member of the Senate serving on the commission shall receive an expense allowance
8 in the same manner as for legislative members of interim legislative committees, to be paid
9 from funds of the Senate, but shall receive the same for not more than 15 days unless
10 additional days are authorized.

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 (a) The commission may conduct one or more public hearings and receive written or oral
13 testimony from all interested persons, organizations, and local governments. The commission
14 shall conduct a study of all issues relevant to the proposed incorporation of a City of Sandy
15 Springs, specifically including but not necessarily limited to:

16 (1) The distribution of local option sales tax revenues and other revenues to local
17 governments within Fulton County and the impact of creation of the proposed city thereon;

18 (2) The delivery of local government services within Fulton County and the impact of
19 creation of the proposed city thereon;

20 (3) The impact of creation of the proposed city on the ability of existing cities to grow
21 through annexation;

22 (4) The possible boundaries of the proposed city and any permutations thereof;

23 (5) The possible form of government of the proposed city and any permutations thereof
24 and any matters, conditions, or limitations that should be included in a charter for the
25 proposed city;

26 (6) Which group or groups of voters, if any, should be allowed a voice with respect to the
27 creation of a new city; and

28 (7) Any other issues deemed relevant by the commission.

29 (b) The commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may
30 deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,
31 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

32 (c) The commission shall exist through January 31, 2004, after which date it shall terminate.
33 The commission shall issue an initial report of its findings and recommendations not later
34 than December 1, 2003, and may thereafter issue one or more supplemental reports.