

House Resolution 623

By: Representatives Smith of the 76th, Harbin of the 80th, Burkhalter of the 36th, Lewis of the 12th, Roberts of the 131st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Commission on Efficiency in State Government; to provide for its powers and
2 duties and compensation of its members; to provide for automatic repeal; to repeal
3 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the state Constitution contemplates a separation of power within state
5 government among the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branches of government.
6 The legislative branch determines policies and programs and reviews program performance.
7 The executive branch executes programs and policies adopted by the legislature and makes
8 policy recommendations to the legislature. The judicial branch determines the constitutional
9 propriety of the policies and programs and adjudicates conflicts arising from the
10 interpretation or application of the laws; and

11 WHEREAS, the state currently has no uniform policy concerning the overview and auditing
12 of the branches and departments and agencies of state government; and

13 WHEREAS, the state should have a commission to promote the orderly growth of state
14 government and to improve the effectiveness of the services performed by all agencies of the
15 state; and

16 WHEREAS, legal questions have arisen concerning the respective powers of the three
17 branches of state government as well as agencies within such branches; and

18 WHEREAS, the branches and agencies of state government need to be reviewed and audited
19 periodically from the bottom up to promote efficiency in serving the public and to avoid
20 duplication of service and the waste of taxpayers' money.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

(a) There is created the Commission on Efficiency in State Government to be composed of three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, the state auditor, the director of the Office of Planning and Budget, the commissioner of administrative services, a state department head to be appointed by the Governor, and three citizen members to be appointed by the Governor. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House and the President of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate who shall serve as cochairpersons of the commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

(b) If an elected or appointed public officer leaves office, a vacancy shall be created in such position on the commission. Such a vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the initial designation or appointment.

SECTION 2.

(a) The commission shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate. More specifically, the commission shall review the operations and functions of the various agencies of state government within all three branches of state government and shall require audits of such agencies to assist the commission in its study and review. The commission shall consider the powers, authority, functions, procedures, and responsibilities of the various agencies and make recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and department heads designed to:

- (1) Promote economy in the operations of state government;
- (2) Reduce the size of state government and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy;
- (3) Improve efficiency in the management of state government;
- (4) Improve services rendered to citizens of the state;
- (5) Simplify and improve preparation of the Governor's budget report;
- (6) Conserve the natural resources of the state;
- (7) Promote the orderly growth of the state and its government but only when growth is necessary;
- (8) Improve the effectiveness of the services performed by the service agencies of the state; and
- (9) Avoid duplication of effort by agencies of state government.

1 (b) The commission shall publish a report annually and include any recommendations or
2 proposed legislation to improve the efficiency of state government.

3 **SECTION 3.**

4 The commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
5 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
6 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative
7 members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section
8 28-1-8. The public officers of the executive branch shall receive no compensation for their
9 services on the commission, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in
10 the performance of their duties as members of the commission. The members of the
11 commission who are not legislative members or public officers shall receive no
12 compensation for their services on the commission, but they shall receive a daily expense
13 allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21. The funds
14 necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of the public officers of the executive
15 branch shall come from funds appropriated or otherwise available to their departments. All
16 other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
17 appropriated to or otherwise available to the House of Representatives and Senate.

18 **SECTION 4.**

19 This resolution shall be repealed in its entirety December 31, 2008.

20 **SECTION 5.**

21 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this resolution are repealed.