

House Resolution 1124

By: Representatives Jackson of the 124th, Post 1, Dukes of the 136th, Mitchell of the 61st, Post 3, and Heckstall of the 48th, Post 3

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Pari-mutuel Betting and Casino Gambling; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Constitution currently permits a state lottery and provides for the
4 use of lottery proceeds for educational purposes, but the Constitution prohibits pari-mutuel
5 betting and casino gambling; and

6 WHEREAS, the lottery for educational purposes has been highly successful and has
7 contributed greatly to the advancement of education in Georgia, but that program is expected
8 to face revenue shortfalls in the near future, at the same time that the state has faced great
9 economic difficulties; and

10 WHEREAS, there exists a need to identify potential solutions to reinvigorate the HOPE
11 Scholarship program and other programs dependent on lottery revenues, as well as perhaps
12 provide funding for other new or improved programs; and

13 WHEREAS, there has not been any recent study in the State of Georgia of the possible
14 legalization of pari-mutuel betting or casino gambling or both as a potential source of state
15 revenues; and

16 WHEREAS, such activities are currently increasingly permitted in our sister states, providing
17 revenue for those states and certainly attracting some portion of such revenue from Georgia's
18 citizens.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 there is created the House Study Committee on Pari-mutuel Betting and Casino Gambling
21 to be composed of three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the

1 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
2 committee.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the above
4 issues and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or
5 appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as
6 it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,
7 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The
8 members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
9 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than three days
10 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
11 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representative. In the
12 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
13 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2004.
14 The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2004.