

House Resolution 1419

By: Representatives Heath of the 18th, McCall of the 78th, Smith of the 87th, Buckner of the 109th, Manning of the 32nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Septage Disposal Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, there are approximately 2 million active individual on-site waste-water
3 treatment systems or septic tanks located in the State of Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, to maintain the environmental integrity of those systems, they should be
5 pumped out on a regular basis; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has recognized that these
7 systems are a viable cost effective and long-term option for meeting public health and water
8 quality goals, particularly in less densely populated areas as in a great part of Georgia when
9 they are adequately managed; and
- 10 WHEREAS, there are some municipalities and counties in Georgia that do not provide a
11 facility for the disposal of septage within their jurisdiction; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the individuals and companies engaged in the business of pumping out these
13 systems do not have reasonable options for the disposal of this septage; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in many instances, there are problems of disposing of septage in creeks,
15 streams, rivers, and on unimproved land since facilities are not made available; and
- 16 WHEREAS, this is a significant problem that has the potential to be a major health and
17 environmental hazard if it is not addressed in the very near future; and
- 18 WHEREAS, it is improper to require a municipality or county to accept waste without being
19 allowed to charge an appropriate fee.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 there is created the House Septage Disposal Study Committee to be composed of ten
3 members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the
4 House Natural Resources and Environment Committee and two members of the House State
5 Planning and Community Affairs Committee as members of the committee and shall
6 designate one of such members as chairperson. In addition to legislative members, the study
7 committee shall also include one representative from the Association County Commissioners
8 of Georgia, one representative from the Georgia Municipal Association, one representative
9 from the Georgia Onsite Wastewater Association, one representative from the Environmental
10 Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, one representative from the
11 Public Health Division of the Department of Human Resources, and one representative from
12 the Sierra Club, all of whom shall be appointed by the presidents, directors, or
13 commissioners of their respective organizations. The chairperson shall call all meetings of
14 the committee.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
16 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
17 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
18 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
19 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
20 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
21 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
22 Code of Georgia Annotated. Members of the committee who are state officials, other than
23 legislative members, and state employees shall receive no compensation for their services
24 on the committee, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
25 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are
26 reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees. The funds
27 necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
28 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available
29 to their respective departments. Except as otherwise provided in this resolution, all funds
30 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
31 to the House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution
32 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than ten days unless
33 additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
34 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
35 made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished on December
36 31, 2004.