

House Resolution 1445

By: Representatives Sholar of the 141st, Post 1, Royal of the 140th, Broome of the 141st, Post 2, and Greene of the 134th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Economic Development of the Lower Muskogee
2 Creek Indian Tribe and Southwest Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe is recognized by the State of Georgia
4 and includes descendants of the original Muskogee Creek Nation who avoided the removal
5 by being Christianized; and

6 WHEREAS, the Tribe consists of approximately 2,700 Muskogee Creeks, all of whom meet
7 the criteria established by Congress for Eastern Creek Dockets 21, 272, and 275; and

8 WHEREAS, members of the Tribe live mainly in Grady, Decatur, Mitchell, and Thomas
9 counties in southwest Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe, led by Chief Marian S.
11 "Vonnie" McCormick, to work with the General Assembly in developing a plan to create
12 economic development opportunities in southwest Georgia that would benefit members of
13 the Tribe and the community at large, which has been greatly affected by the economic
14 recession; and

15 WHEREAS, the Tribe believes that collaboration with members of the General Assembly
16 from southwest Georgia and representatives from state agencies, including, but not limited
17 to, the Department of Community Affairs, Department of Technical and Adult Education,
18 and the Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism, could develop a plan that would be
19 appealing to investors by utilizing the unique benefits available to Native Americans from
20 the federal government, including grants, loans, and tax incentives.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Economic Development of the
23 Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe and Southwest Georgia to be composed of 11

1 members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the
2 House of Representatives as members of the committee. The Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives shall also appoint two residents of southwest Georgia, including at least one
4 member of the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe, as members of the committee. The Senate
5 Committee on Assignments shall appoint three members of the Senate as members of the
6 committee. The Senate Committee on Assignments shall also appoint two residents of
7 southwest Georgia, including at least one member of the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe, as
8 members of the committee. The chairperson of the Georgia Council on Indian Affairs shall
9 be a member of the committee and shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The
10 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
12 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
13 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
14 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
15 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
16 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
17 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
18 Code of Georgia Annotated. Citizen members shall receive a daily expense allowance in the
19 amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
20 Annotated as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees.
21 Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members, and state
22 employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee, but they shall
23 be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members
24 of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities
25 as state officials or employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses
26 of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds
27 appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments. All other funds
28 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
29 to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The expenses and allowances authorized by
30 this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days
31 unless additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its
32 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
33 shall be made on or before December 1, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished on
34 December 1, 2004.