

House Resolution 1459

By: Representatives Purcell of the 122nd, Ray of the 108th, James of the 114th, and Royal of the 140th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Programs Study
2 Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, agriculture and forestry constitute a substantial portion of Georgia's economy,
4 are important to every county, area, and region of the state, and comprise major components
5 of the tax base of many counties; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia is blessed with many assets such as good farmers; an excellent natural
7 resource base including soil, water, and climate; outstanding transportation and
8 communication systems; enlightened and progressive agribusinesses; and research, teaching,
9 and extension programs that all contribute to successful agriculture and forestry industries;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
12 and the Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture, Home Economics, and Allied
13 Programs have the responsibilities of teaching students in agricultural and environmental
14 sciences, conducting research in the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations, and
15 transmitting information, knowledge, and technology learned through research to farmers and
16 others throughout the state through the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service; and

17 WHEREAS, 4-H and youth programs conducted by the respective colleges provide
18 opportunities and experiences that enrich the lives of young people throughout the state; and

19 WHEREAS, research and extension programs in the University of Georgia College of
20 Family and Consumer Sciences, supported by the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations
21 and Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, strengthen families throughout the state; and

22 WHEREAS, research and extension programs in the University of Georgia D. B. Warnell
23 School of Forest Resources, supported through the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations

1 and Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, provide information, knowledge, and
2 technology that ensure the sustainability and success of Georgia's forestry industry; and

3 WHEREAS, an extension program in the University of Georgia College of Veterinary
4 Medicine, supported by the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, contributes greatly to
5 the animal industries of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, funding for support of agricultural research and extension programs has been
7 dramatically reduced since 1991, resulting in major reductions in capacity to conduct
8 research and deliver information; and

9 WHEREAS, the reduction of funding has resulted in a loss of over 400 personnel devoted
10 to these programs in the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental
11 Sciences; and

12 WHEREAS, the reduction of funding has resulted also in a loss of personnel in the College
13 of Agriculture, Home Economics, and Allied Programs at Fort Valley State University; and

14 WHEREAS, information, knowledge, and technology are becoming increasingly important
15 in ensuring the sustainability and success of agriculture; and

16 WHEREAS, the state has failed to provide an adequate match for federal funds for
17 agricultural research and extension through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and
18 Extension Service; and

19 WHEREAS, the 1995 and 1996 Reports of the Governor's Science and Technology
20 Advisory Council recommended enhanced support for agricultural research and extension
21 programs; and

22 WHEREAS, the future economic viability of the State of Georgia is dependent upon
23 successful agriculture and forestry industries; and

24 WHEREAS, the people served by such programs continue to expect the services provided
25 previously; and

26 WHEREAS, there are major inequities in funding for health insurance, maintenance and
27 operations, repair, and rehabilitation for these programs.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 there is created the House Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Programs Study
3 Committee to be composed of eight members of the House of Representatives to be
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a
5 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
6 meetings of the committee.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
8 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
9 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
10 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
11 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
12 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
13 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
14 Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be
15 received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
16 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from
17 the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes
18 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if
19 any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2004. The committee shall stand
20 abolished on December 1, 2004.