

The House Committee on Agriculture & Consumer Affairs offers the following substitute to HR 1459:

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 the Fort Valley State University College of Agriculture, Home Economics, and Allied
13 Programs, and the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Division of Agriculture and Forest
14 Resources and Family and Consumer Sciences have the responsibilities of teaching students
15 in agricultural and environmental sciences, conducting research in the Georgia Agricultural
16 Experiment Stations, and transmitting information, knowledge, and technology learned
17 through research to farmers and others throughout the state through the Georgia Cooperative
18 Extension Service; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, research and extension programs in the University of Georgia D. B. Warnell
2 School of Forest Resources, supported through the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations
3 and Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, provide information, knowledge, and
4 technology that ensure the sustainability and success of Georgia's forestry industry; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 there is created the House Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Programs Study
5 Committee to be composed of not more than seven members of the House of Representatives
6 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate
7 a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
8 meetings of the committee.

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