

Senate Resolution 23

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st and Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Port Authority for the Port of Savannah Study Committee; and for other
- 2 purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, the Port of Savannah was the site of the establishment of the Colony of Georgia;
- 4 and

- 5 WHEREAS, the Savannah River is the navigable river that serves the Port of Savannah; and

- 6 WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina borders the northern side of the Savannah River;
- 7 and

- 8 WHEREAS, Jasper County, South Carolina, borders the Savannah River on the north; and

- 9 WHEREAS, both the State of Georgia and the State of South Carolina have established port
- 10 authorities to govern all port related activities in their states; and

- 11 WHEREAS, competition for shipping business has been a long accepted tradition between
- 12 the Port of Savannah and the Port of Charleston; and

- 13 WHEREAS, both states are intent on supporting the future development of their respective
- 14 ports; and

- 15 WHEREAS, both the State of Georgia and the State of South Carolina are dependent on the
- 16 economic benefits derived from the activities of each respective port authority; and

- 17 WHEREAS, the ever increasing size of ships is requiring both ports to continually deepen
- 18 the respective rivers which serve their ports; and

1 WHEREAS, the environmental factors affected by such river deepening is becoming a major
2 obstacle to be overcome by each port prior to deepening their respective port rivers; and

3 WHEREAS, there may be certain benefits to be realized by both states sharing information
4 regarding a proposed port operation on both the north and south sides of the Savannah River;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of both states to cooperate with each other's economic
7 activities along their common border.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
9 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Port Authority for the Port of Savannah Study
10 Committee to be composed of three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate
11 Committee on Assignments, three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed
12 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and three citizens to be appointed by the
13 Governor.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
15 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
16 or legislation the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct
17 such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to
18 enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
19 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall
20 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
21 Annotated. Citizen members shall receive a daily expense allowance in the amount specified
22 in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated as well
23 as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees. All funds
24 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
25 to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The expenses and allowances authorized by
26 this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days
27 unless additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its
28 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
29 shall be made on or before December 1, 2005. The committee shall stand abolished on
30 December 1, 2005.