

House Resolution 169

By: Representatives Drenner of the 86th, Benfield of the 85th, Gardner of the 57th, and Henson of the 87th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Use of Dry Cleaning Solvents; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the use of the chemical perchloroethylene, a proven carcinogen commonly used
4 by dry cleaners, is pervasive throughout Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, this deadly substance commonly contaminates the soil and groundwater through
6 leakage at dry cleaning establishments and improper disposal by dry cleaners and quickly
7 spreads far from the site of contamination, and it has been found to have entered public water
8 systems in the state, posing a very real and present danger to the health and well-being of our
9 citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, the cleanup of soil and water contaminated by perchloroethylene is expensive,
11 and the presence of the chemical interferes with commercial property transactions and
12 lessens the value of commercial property; and

13 WHEREAS, nontoxic substitutes to perchloroethylene which are equally effective as a
14 cleaning agent are currently readily available to dry cleaners; and

15 WHEREAS, in order to protect the health of our citizens, it is extremely important that dry
16 cleaners be given incentives to replace perchloroethylene with nontoxic, environmentally
17 friendly solvents.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on the Use of Dry Cleaning
20 Solvents to be composed of seven members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives
21 shall appoint three members of the House of Representatives as members of the committee
22 and the Senate Committee on Assignments shall appoint three members of the Senate as
23 members of the committee. The director of the Environmental Protection Division of the

1 Department of Natural Resources shall serve as chairperson and a nonvoting member of the
2 committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the usage of
4 perchloroethylene in Georgia, the incidence of groundwater and soil contamination from
5 perchloroethylene usage, and the health hazard created by the use of such substance. The
6 committee shall identify options available for nontoxic, environmentally friendly solvents
7 and suggest legislation creating incentives for dry cleaners to switch from perchloroethylene
8 to other solvents. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such
9 times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively
10 its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
11 The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code
12 Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. All funds necessary to carry out
13 the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate and the
14 House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution shall
15 not be received by any member of the committee for more than ten days unless additional
16 days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
17 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
18 made on or before December 31, 2005. The committee shall stand abolished on December
19 31, 2005.