

House Resolution 446

By: Representatives Mangham of the 94th, Brooks of the 63rd, Hugley of the 133rd, Orrock of the 58th, Stephenson of the 92nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging President Bush and the Congress of the United States to extend the provisions of
2 Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, for an additional 25 years;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the United States Congress enacted the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 in
5 response to the numerous obstacles and barriers that had been erected by many states and
6 local governments to prevent the free exercise of the right to vote and to participate on an
7 equal basis in the electoral process by members of racial minorities; and

8 WHEREAS, one of the main features of the Act was the preclearance requirement of Section
9 5 which provided that states and local governments could not implement or enforce changes
10 with respect to voting without first obtaining preclearance of such change through the
11 Attorney General of the United States or through the District Court for the District of
12 Columbia; and

13 WHEREAS, the preclearance provisions of Section 5 have prevented states and local
14 governments from playing shell games with their laws and regulations concerning voting and
15 have ensured that the voting rights of minority citizens have been protected; and

16 WHEREAS, the provisions of Section 5 were initially to be in effect for a period of 15 years,
17 but, due to the persistent need for the provisions to protect minority voting interests,
18 Congress extended the provisions for five years in 1970, seven years in 1975, and 25 years
19 in 1982; and

20 WHEREAS, while substantial progress has been made in this country in the area of
21 protecting minority voting rights, there still exists a need for the preclearance provisions of
22 Section 5 to ensure that the progress that has been made is not diluted or lost; and

1 WHEREAS, the provisions of Section 5 will expire in 2007 unless they are extended by
2 Congress.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 the members of this body urge President Bush and the Congress of the United States to
5 extend the provisions of Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, for
6 an additional 25 years.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to President George W. Bush
9 and each member of the Georgia congressional delegation.