

House Resolution 1124

By: Representatives Mosley of the 178th, O'Neal of the 146th, Amerson of the 9th, McCall of the 30th, Smith of the 129th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Alternative, Renewable, and Environmentally
2 Sensitive Fuels and Sources of Energy; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, stable, affordable energy is vital to the economy and security of the people of
4 the State of Georgia and of the United States of America; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States is heavily dependent on foreign oil supplies, and the
6 transportation sector depends on petroleum for approximately 97 percent of its needs, which
7 exacerbates price volatility, adds to national trade imbalances, and decreases national energy
8 security; and

9 WHEREAS, alternative fuels and fuel cells in combination with emissions reduction
10 technology advances may protect the citizens of the State of Georgia from future regular gas
11 price spikes and offer significant emissions reductions; and

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13 WHEREAS, the use of clean, renewable energy sources has many benefits, including
14 minimal environmental impact and dramatic air quality improvement and constitutes a
15 preferred alternative to third-world energy development; and

16 WHEREAS, renewable energy is defined as energy derived from wind, the sun, geothermal
17 sources, hydrogen derived from biomass or water, biomass or bio-based products, and
18 recycled materials comprised primarily of cellulose; and

19 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Georgia to have access to
20 the most effective, efficient, and environmentally sound methods of alternative and
21 renewable energy production; and

22 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize that renewable forms and sources of energy can
23 supplement the production of energy from existing natural resources; and

1 WHEREAS, technology is available to produce renewable energy from these renewable
2 resources; and

3 WHEREAS, recycling technology capable of producing recycled materials comprised
4 primarily of cellulose is known and viable; and

5 WHEREAS, the use of biomass and the use of recycling technology to produce renewable
6 energy represent significant methods of preserving the environment and providing a
7 sustainable energy supply for the people of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, energy from renewable sources using biomass or recycling is important for
9 managed farming, community development, and the prevention of landfill sprawl throughout
10 the state; and

11 WHEREAS, bio-based products that rely on plant or animal materials as a main ingredient,
12 such as biodiesel, are important to agriculture in the State of Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, the use of recycling to provide recycled materials composed primarily of
14 cellulose for producing renewable energy is important to the state's environment; and

15 WHEREAS, the use of renewable energy from biomass or recycling and other alternative
16 forms of energy may reduce the state's dependency on imported energy sources and on
17 energy sources that harm the environment.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 there is created the House Study Committee on Alternative, Renewable, and Environmentally
20 Sensitive Fuels and Sources of Energy to be composed of:

21 (1) Six members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
22 House, of which one shall be a member of the Ways and Means Committee, one shall be
23 a member of the Transportation Committee, one shall be a member of the Natural
24 Resources and Environment Committee, one shall be a member of the Agriculture and
25 Consumer Affairs Committee, one shall be a member of the Science and Technology
26 Committee, and one shall be a member of the Public Utilities and Telecommunications
27 Committee; and

28 (2) Five members of organizations which focus on forms of alternative or renewable
29 energy to be appointed by the Governor to be chosen from among the following:

30 (A) American Gas Association;

- 1 (B) Clean Air Campaign;
- 2 (C) Clean Cities - Atlanta;
- 3 (D) Georgia Chamber of Commerce;
- 4 (E) Georgia Department of Transportation;
- 5 (F) Georgia Department of Revenue;
- 6 (G) Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural
- 7 Resources;
- 8 (H) Georgia Public Service Commission;
- 9 (I) Sierra Club;
- 10 (J) Southern Alliance for Clean Energy; and
- 11 (K) Southeast Alternative Fuels Task Force.

12 The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the committee as
13 chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
15 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above, including but not limited to:

- 16 (1) Changing the fuel tax structure in order to equalize rates in which alternative,
17 renewable, and environmentally sensitive fuels are taxed;
- 18 (2) Promoting equitable taxation of and incentives for converting to alternative,
19 renewable, and environmentally sensitive fuels;
- 20 (3) Creating additional economic and other incentives to converting to alternative,
21 renewable, and environmentally sensitive fuels, including, but not limited to:
 - 22 (A) Tax credits for conversion; and
 - 23 (B) Bid advantages for city, county, and state contracts;
- 24 (4) Promoting cleaner fuels and forms of energy;
- 25 (5) Investigating the cost of conversion to be able to use alternative, renewable, and
26 environmentally sensitive fuels; and
- 27 (6) Taking testimony from experts who can educate the committee on each of these
28 matters.

29 The committee shall recommend any actions or legislation which the committee deems
30 necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at
31 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
32 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
33 resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances
34 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the
35 same for not more than two days; except that the Speaker of the House of Representatives
36 may authorize up to three additional days based on the progress made by the committee. The

1 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
2 appropriated to the House of Representatives. The committee shall make a report of its
3 progress, findings, and recommendations, which may include suggestions for proposed
4 legislation, if any, after each meeting. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31,
5 2006.