

House Resolution 1287

By: Representatives Sims of the 169<sup>th</sup> and Hembree of the 67<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Public Libraries Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the current legal model for governance of public libraries in Georgia was  
3 established in the 1940's and since that time the population of the state has nearly tripled and  
4 its demographic patterns have changed greatly; and

5 WHEREAS, the statutes dealing with the state library administrative agency have not been  
6 amended in over 20 years except in transferring its operation from the Department of  
7 Education to the Department of Technical and Adult Education in 1996 and transferring its  
8 operation to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in 2000; and

9 WHEREAS, over \$30 million of state funds and over \$165 million of local funds are  
10 expended annually to support public libraries; and

11 WHEREAS, there is a growing need for greater accountability in the use of local, state, and  
12 federal funding for public libraries; and

13 WHEREAS, there has been no formal study of public libraries initiated by the General  
14 Assembly in recent history.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Public Libraries Study Committee to be composed  
17 of 19 members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of  
18 the House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
19 members as cochairperson. The Senate Committee on Assignments shall appoint two  
20 members of the Senate as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
21 members as cochairperson. The Governor, after considering recommendations by the  
22 Georgia Public Library Service, shall appoint six public library directors and three public  
23 library trustees. The Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

1 shall appoint one member of the board of regents to serve on the committee. The committee  
2 shall include three local government officials as follows: one city official, elected or  
3 appointed, to be appointed by the Georgia Municipal Association; one county official,  
4 elected or appointed, to be appointed by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia;  
5 and one board of education official, elected or appointed, to be appointed by the Georgia  
6 School Boards Association. The chancellor of the University System of Georgia and the state  
7 librarian shall serve ex officio as members of the committee. The cochairpersons shall call  
8 all meetings of the committee.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Public Library Service shall provide staff  
10 resources and assistance to the committee. The following agencies shall make their personnel  
11 and expertise available to consult with and provide information to the committee: Georgia  
12 Department of Audits and Accounts; Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Georgia Department  
13 of Revenue; Governor's Office of Planning and Budget; State Grants Advisory Council of  
14 the Georgia Public Library Service; and Office of the Attorney General of the State of  
15 Georgia.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
17 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action  
18 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
19 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
20 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
21 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the  
22 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official  
23 Code of Georgia Annotated. Members who are citizens or part-time local officials shall  
24 receive a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section  
25 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated as well as the mileage or transportation  
26 allowance authorized for state employees. Members of the committee who are full-time state  
27 or local officials or employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the  
28 committee, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance  
29 of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for  
30 expenses in their capacities as state or local officials or employees. The funds necessary for  
31 the reimbursement of the expenses of full-time state and local officials shall come from funds  
32 appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments and local governments.  
33 All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
34 appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The expenses and allowances  
35 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more

1 than three days unless additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a  
2 report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,  
3 such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand  
4 abolished on December 31, 2006.