

Senate Resolution 1081

By: Senators Seabaugh of the 28th, Balfour of the 9th, Hill of the 32nd, Shafer of the 48th and Goggans of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Georgia Broadband Education Task Force; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, technological advances such as broadband have the ability to substantially
3 enhance the daily lives of the citizens of Georgia, increasing their quality of life; and

4 WHEREAS, economic growth is maximized when business owners and citizens throughout
5 the state are aware of the benefits derived from the use of information and communication
6 technologies; and

7 WHEREAS, increased awareness as to broadband technology and how it can be used will
8 better position Georgians to compete in the global market; and

9 WHEREAS, the members of this body recognize that through education, the citizens of this
10 state may be able to better utilize broadband technology and enjoy the benefits it is capable
11 of providing to their lives at work, at home, and at play.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 GEORGIA:

14 SECTION 1.

15 Effective July 1, 2006, the Georgia Broadband Education Task Force is established for the
16 purpose of educating the public on the benefits of broadband technology and to improve the
17 utilization of broadband technology within the State of Georgia.

18 SECTION 2.

19 (a) The task force shall be composed of 18 members to be appointed as follows:

20 (1) A member of the Georgia House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives;

- 1 (2) A member of the Georgia Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
 - 2 Senate;
 - 3 (3) A representative of the Georgia Technology Authority, appointed by the Governor;
 - 4 (4) A representative of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia,
 - 5 appointed by the Governor;
 - 6 (5) A representative from a university located in the state, appointed by the Governor;
 - 7 (6) A representative from a public school located in the state, appointed by the Governor;
 - 8 (7) A representative from the Georgia Department of Education, appointed by the
 - 9 Governor;
 - 10 (8) A representative of a Tier I local exchange company, appointed by the Governor;
 - 11 (9) A representative of a Tier II local exchange company, appointed by the Governor;
 - 12 (10) A representative of a competitive local exchange carrier, appointed by the
 - 13 Governor;
 - 14 (11) A representative from the cable television industry, appointed by the Governor;
 - 15 (12) A representative of the Internet service provider industry, appointed by the
 - 16 Governor;
 - 17 (13) A representative of the wireless service industry, appointed by the Governor;
 - 18 (14) A representative from a large business who uses broadband technology, appointed
 - 19 by the Governor;
 - 20 (15) A representative from a small business who uses broadband technology, appointed
 - 21 by the Governor;
 - 22 (16) A representative of elderly users of broadband technology to serve as a nonvoting
 - 23 member of the task force, appointed by the Governor;
 - 24 (17) A representative of family users of broadband technology to serve as a nonvoting
 - 25 member of the task force, appointed by the Governor; and
 - 26 (18) A representative at large, appointed by the Governor.
- 27 (b) The Governor shall designate a member to serve as chairperson of the task force, which
- 28 chairperson shall serve in that position at the pleasure of the Governor. The task force may
- 29 elect such other officers and appoint committees as it considers appropriate. The task force
- 30 shall meet at the call of the chairperson.
- 31 (c) The legislative members of the task force shall receive the allowance provided for in
- 32 Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Citizen members shall
- 33 receive a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code
- 34 Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated as well as the mileage or
- 35 transportation allowance authorized for state employees. Any member who is a public
- 36 official or employee other than a member of the General Assembly shall not receive a daily
- 37 expense allowance but may be reimbursed for actual expenses by his or her public

1 employer. All funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
2 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives. The expenses and
3 allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
4 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.

5 **SECTION 3.**

6 The task force shall:

- 7 (1) Receive and consider reports and testimony from individuals, companies,
8 departments, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations
9 state wide to learn more about the benefits of broadband technology and how it may be
10 better utilized in this state;
- 11 (2) Study the best practices for educating the public as to the benefits of broadband
12 technology; and
- 13 (3) Develop a comprehensive plan for broadband education and utilization in Georgia
14 and present recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for changes in
15 state programs, statutes, policies, budgets, and standards relating to the education of the
16 public as to the benefits of broadband technology and improving utilization of broadband
17 technology in this state.

18 **SECTION 4.**

19 The task force shall present a report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the
20 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1 , 2007. The task force
21 shall stand abolished on January 1, 2007.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
23 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the public and the press.