

Senate Resolution 327

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st, Chapman of the 3rd, Hill of the 4th and Tolleson of the 20th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Atlantic Coastal Beach Preservation and Maintenance Study Committee;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, beach erosion is a serious problem on Georgia's Atlantic coastal beaches,
4 including but not limited to Tybee Island beach. Such coastal beaches are eroding steadily,
5 and it is costly to maintain and preserve and build up the beaches; and

6 WHEREAS, while there is a need for maintaining navigation inlets, harbors, and rivers to
7 promote commercial and recreational uses of our coastal waters and their resources, dredging
8 activities to deepen or maintain navigation channels within tidal inlets, as well as the
9 entrances to harbors and rivers, often alter the natural drift of sand resources within the
10 littoral zone. This alteration can be exacerbated when the sand resources are deposited in
11 designated upland or offshore disposal areas instead of being returned to the natural
12 river-sand transport-beach system. This alteration can adversely impact natural resources,
13 recreation, tourism, and associated coastal economies; and

14 WHEREAS, government agencies have pumped millions of cubic yards of sand onto Tybee
15 Island since the 1970's, when they began renourishing the beach on Tybee Island east of
16 Savannah; and

17 WHEREAS, a federal government study began in January, 2007, to examine how much the
18 Savannah River's busy shipping channel contributes to beach erosion on Tybee Island. The
19 study will try to measure how much the Savannah River, which meets the Atlantic Ocean at
20 Tybee Island's northern shore, disrupts the natural flow of sand being eroded and redeposited
21 by waters along the beach; and

22 WHEREAS, the next scheduled beach renourishment for Tybee Island, in 2008, is expected
23 to cost \$10 million. The federal government has heretofore covered 60 percent of the cost,
24 with state and local governments responsible for paying the rest; and

1 WHEREAS, in addition to the federal government's recently initiated study of the scope of
2 the problem for Tybee Island, there is a need for this state to examine possible options for
3 conservation measures for Georgia's Atlantic coastal beaches as well as ways to fund beach
4 preservation and maintenance, including public and private partnerships.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
6 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Atlantic Coastal Beach Preservation and
7 Maintenance Study Committee to be composed of eight members. The President of the
8 Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members of the committee and shall
9 designate one of such members as cochairperson. The Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives shall appoint four members of the House of Representatives as members of
11 the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. The
12 cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
14 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
15 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
16 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
17 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
18 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
19 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
20 Code of Georgia Annotated. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
21 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of
22 Representatives. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be
23 received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
24 authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations,
25 with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before
26 December 31, 2007. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2007.