

Senate Resolution 480

By: Senators Carter of the 13th, Johnson of the 1st, Hooks of the 14th, Meyer von Bremen of the 12th, Mullis of the 53rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Increasing Cargo Capacity at Georgia Ports; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the state-wide economic impact of Georgia ports is reflected in the following
4 figures: sales of \$35.4 billion (7 percent of Georgia's total sales); gross state product: \$17.1
5 billion (6 percent of Georgia's total GSP); income: \$10.8 billion (4 percent of Georgia's total
6 personal income); state and local taxes: \$1.4 billion; federal taxes: \$3.2 billion; state-wide
7 employment: full and part-time jobs 275,968 (7 percent of Georgia's total employment); and

8 WHEREAS, any viable processes to increase the capacity at Georgia ports while reducing
9 congestion around the ports would increase the economic development and efficiency of the
10 ports; and

11 WHEREAS, some experts have concluded in studies that the method of unloading ships
12 currently utilized in Georgia ports could be improved by taking cargo containers off ships
13 and loading them onto rail transportation to be taken to off-site loading areas; and

14 WHEREAS, upon arrival at the off-site loading area, the containers could be transferred to
15 trucks or other transportation for shipment to the intended destination; and

16 WHEREAS, some studies suggest this process would increase the capacity at Georgia ports
17 and thereby further fuel economic development in the ports; and

18 WHEREAS, some studies suggest the decreased congestion around port areas would be
19 substantial under this process; and

20 WHEREAS, some of the infrastructure necessary to implement this plan already is in place;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the state to create a system that will increase Georgia
2 ports' ability to quickly and efficiently move freight containers through our ports and onto
3 our highway system.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
5 Study Committee on Increasing Cargo Capacity at Georgia Ports to be composed of seven
6 members of the Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant
7 Governor shall designate one of the appointees as chairperson of the committee. The
8 committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
10 needs, issues, problems, and opportunities as mentioned above or related thereto and
11 recommend any action or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The
12 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
13 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
14 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee may
15 call upon persons with expertise in moving freight containers through ports and upon
16 members of the business community or persons and organizations as deemed necessary by
17 the committee to fully explore the purposes of this resolution. The members of the
18 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
19 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than three days unless
20 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
21 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event that the
22 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed
23 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2007. The
24 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2007.