

House Resolution 662

By: Representatives Byrd of the 20th, England of the 108th, Davis of the 122nd, McCall of the 30th, and Stephens of the 164th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Georgia Bioeconomic Development Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, bioscience technologies form the foundation of a new bioeconomy and are
4 driving innovations in healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy resources, industrial
5 production, environmental management, and national security; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has established tremendous university research and industrial
7 developments which are necessary to be a leader among the many states that are already
8 constructing infrastructures for a bioeconomy; and

9 WHEREAS, in the twenty-first century bioeconomy race, the competition is intense for both
10 innovative ideas and the capital and talent to commercialize them, and while Georgia has
11 successfully built research universities that are globally competitive, the state has failed to
12 support commercializing the technologies that spring from such valuable inspirations; and

13 WHEREAS, this state loses potential return on its research investment to other states that
14 have developed plans and infrastructures to support bioeconomic development; and

15 WHEREAS, this state cannot afford to leave the development of a bioeconomy to chance,
16 for each year Georgia fails to act, the state falls further behind the competition and Georgia
17 loses its substantial investment in university research programs; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia is also missing the opportunity to take advantage of its investment in
19 its students by failing to link science with meaningful careers in Georgia and this vital human
20 resource is often lost to other states which offer such career opportunities; and

1 WHEREAS, in order to maximize the return on this state's research assets, improve
2 workforce education and attract technologies and companies from outside the state, Georgia
3 must be an aggressive partner with the private sector; and

4 WHEREAS, it is predicted that improvements in Georgia's bioeconomic infrastructures
5 would create 25,000 to 50,000 jobs in Georgia over the next 20 years; and

6 WHEREAS, to become a leader in the bioeconomy Georgia must unite government,
7 industry, and universities together in a comprehensive effort, thereby tying the state's
8 investments in university research, commercialization, and economic development to
9 measurable improvements in job growth, increases in tax revenues, and improvements in
10 education, health, and the overall quality of life for all of Georgia's citizens.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
12 there is created the House Georgia Bioeconomic Development Study Committee. The
13 committee shall consist of five members representing the life sciences industry, government,
14 and universities who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Of
15 these five members, there shall be at least one each of the following: a member of a public
16 or private university with experience in the area of biological research, an individual
17 experienced in the business of bioscience technologies, and three members of the House of
18 Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the chairperson.
19 Appointments shall be made by the respective appointing authorities no later than June 1,
20 2007.

21 The committee shall meet at least five times per year at the call of the chairperson or upon
22 the request of at least three of its members. At least one meeting shall be designated as a
23 summit hosted by the committee which shall be held no later than August 2007. The
24 bioeconomic summit shall bring together government, university, and industry leaders in an
25 attempt to negotiate the details of enabling legislation and endorse its legislative proposals
26 for the 2008 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall have the following duties and
28 responsibilities:

- 29 (1) To review the need for enabling legislation and make recommendations, if any, for
30 improvements in existing provisions to the Georgia General Assembly;
31 (2) To study the need for a venture capital fund that would invest in creating, expanding,
32 and recruiting companies and technologies in Georgia and make recommendations
33 regarding the same;

(3) To study the need for a facilities fund for the creation of infrastructure to support bioscience industry growth and to make recommendations regarding the same;

(4) To study the need for the establishment of a commercialization institute to attract and train managerial talent, to coordinate life sciences workforce training, and to be a single point of contact for the cooperation of government, universities, and industry in building the bioeconomy and to make recommendations regarding the same;

(5) To consider the need for a state authority for bioeconomic development in Georgia which may be designated the Georgia Bioeconomic Development Authority; and

(6) To consider the need for a permanent board to oversee the operations of a Georgia Bioeconomic Development Authority.

Other matters to be considered by the committee shall include the study of public awareness of bioeconomic development, funding of an authority, support for biomedical research, legal implications such as intellectual property rights of the state and the researchers whose research is supported or funded with state funds, objective criteria for measuring increased economic activity, and funding considerations including private sources for funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall identify the opportunities presented by BIO 2009 International Convention as a showcase to the global community of the state's life sciences industry and initiatives in healthcare, agriculture, bioenergy, forestry, environmental management, and national security. The committee shall develop an analysis to consider allocating sufficient funding for the state to participate in the conference and take advantage of this economic opportunity with the added goal of placing Georgia and Atlanta in a four-year rotation as host of this international convention, the largest life sciences conference in the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2007. Copies of the report shall be provided to the Speaker of the House. The committee shall stand abolished on February 15, 2008.