

The House Committee on Special Rules offers the following substitute to HR 662:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
25 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
26 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
27 of this resolution. The members of the committee shall not receive the allowances authorized
28 for legislative members of interim legislative committees nor shall any member receive a per
29 diem allowance or any other cost allowance or reimbursement for attending meetings or
30 other functions or activities relating to service on the study committee. In the event the
31 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
32 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2007.
33 Copies of the report shall be provided to the Speaker of the House. The committee shall
34 stand abolished on February 15, 2008.