

## House Resolution 1609

By: Representatives Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Parrish of the 156<sup>th</sup>, Horne of the 71<sup>st</sup>, Smith of the 129<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Trade, Travel, and Security between Georgia and  
2 Western Hemisphere Trade Partners; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States, and Georgia particularly, enjoy a healthy and prosperous  
4 economic relationship with our western hemisphere neighbors; and

5 WHEREAS, concerns have surfaced relating to the increasing costs and delays associated  
6 with crossing the border, including the entrance into the United States through our ports of  
7 entries, such as airports and ports; and

8 WHEREAS, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta and the Port of Savannah  
9 are among the busiest points of entry in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, while in the post 9/11 world, any policy approach towards entry into the United  
11 States must first and foremost take into consideration security, work can be done so as to  
12 balance security concerns with those of trade; and

13 WHEREAS, as one of the nation's economic and trade centers, Georgia should be at the  
14 forefront of developing policy at the state level to further the efficiency of trade between us  
15 and our neighbors.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
17 there is created the House Study Committee on Trade, Travel, and Security between Georgia  
18 and its Western Hemisphere Trade Partners to be composed of seven members of the House  
19 of Representatives, of whom four members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House  
20 of Representatives, and three members shall be appointed by the chairperson of the House  
21 Committee on Economic Development and Tourism. The Speaker of the House shall select  
22 one of the members appointed as the chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call  
23 all meetings of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the impact of  
2 the costs of trade, travel, and security on Georgia and its western hemisphere trade partners.  
3 The committee may make recommendations for changes in legislation and in the event the  
4 committee makes such recommendations, the committee shall provide copies of proposed  
5 legislation to be prepared by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
7 needs, and issues mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
8 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
9 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
10 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
11 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
12 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of  
13 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by  
14 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.  
15 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds  
16 appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of  
17 its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such  
18 report shall be made on or before December 31, 2008, at which time the committee shall  
19 stand abolished.