

House Resolution 1881

By: Representatives Drenner of the 86th, Benfield of the 85th, Thomas of the 100th, and Manning of the 32nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Dry-Cleaning Solvents Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, there is a government administered program that has successfully resulted in
3 the remediation of tens of thousands of petroleum spills across the country; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the general public remains ignorant that the second most substantial threat to
5 our drinking water resources is the release of dangerous chemicals by dry-cleaners; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the dry-cleaning process is not dry but simply uses nonwater based solvents to
7 clean garments; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in the 1940's the industry developed the chlorinated solvent perchloroethylene
9 known as perc, which remains the predominant chemical used by dry-cleaners today; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established that
11 perc is a potential carcinogen and its degradation product, vinyl-chloride, is a known
12 carcinogen; and
- 13 WHEREAS, while the dry-cleaning industry is slowly moving toward more environmentally
14 friendly garment cleaning techniques, there are approximately 27,000 perc-based
15 dry-cleaners operating in the United States today and probably at least as many properties
16 that have been operated as such dry-cleaners in the past; and
- 17 WHEREAS, a 2005 California study indicated that one water supply well in every ten tested
18 was shown to contain dry-cleaning solvents; and
- 19 WHEREAS, as the years pass, the drinking water resources contaminated by these chemicals
20 will increase in number and at a time when the availability and sustainability of water

1 resources is called into question, ground-water resources are increasingly precious
2 commodities; and

3 WHEREAS, perc releases from dry-cleaners remain largely unaddressed, with only 13 states
4 having established dry-cleaner remediation programs; and

5 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the states without programs work now to craft legislation
6 necessary for the overdue solution to this pressing problem.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 there is created the House Dry-Cleaning Solvent Study Committee to be composed of five
9 members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of
11 the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

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