

House Bill 1252

By: Representatives Jacobs of the 80<sup>th</sup>, Geisinger of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Chambers of the 81<sup>st</sup>, Willard of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Millar of the 79<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, so as to create the Transit  
3 Governance Study Commission to prepare legislative proposals for a regional transit  
4 governing authority in Georgia, to study the impact that improved public transportation  
5 systems would have on traffic congestion, and to study the increase in service generated  
6 through combining public transportation systems into an integrated regional transit agency  
7 in order to maximize resource allocation; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for  
8 the composition, officers, and meetings of the commission; to provide for reports; to provide  
9 for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
10 purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
14 Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, is amended by adding a new Code section to  
15 read as follows:

16 "50-32-5.

17 (a) The State of Georgia, particularly the metropolitan Atlanta region, faces a number of  
18 critical issues relating to its transportation system and ever-increasing traffic congestion.  
19 In light of the dwindling resources available to help solve the problems, it is imperative that  
20 all available resources be used to maximum efficiency in order to alleviate the gridlock in  
21 and around the metropolitan Atlanta region. There exists a need for a thorough  
22 examination of our current transportation system and the methodical development of  
23 legislative proposals for a regional transit governing authority in Georgia.

24 (b) In order to find practical, workable solutions to these problems, there is created the  
25 Transit Governance Study Commission to be composed of: three Senators from the Atlanta  
26 Regional Commission area to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, three

27 Representatives from the Atlanta Regional Commission area to be appointed by the  
28 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairperson of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid  
29 Transit Oversight Committee, the chairperson of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the  
30 chairperson of the Regional Transit Committee of the Atlanta Regional Commission, one  
31 staff member from the Atlanta Regional Commission to be selected by the chairperson of  
32 the Atlanta Regional Commission, the executive director of the Georgia Regional  
33 Transportation Authority, the general manager of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit  
34 Authority, and the directors of any other county transit systems operating in the Atlanta  
35 Regional Commission area.

36 (c) The commission shall elect, by a majority vote, one of its legislative members to serve  
37 as chairperson of the commission and such other officers as the commission deems  
38 appropriate. The commission shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chairperson.  
39 The commission may conduct such meetings and hearings at such places and at such times  
40 as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its  
41 powers, perform its duties, and accomplish its objectives and purposes as contained in this  
42 Code section. The legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances  
43 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees.

44 (d) All officers and agencies of the three branches of state government are directed to  
45 provide all appropriate information and assistance as requested by the commission.

46 (e) The commission shall undertake a study of the issues described in this Code section  
47 and recommend specific legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate.  
48 Specifically, the commission shall determine the best manner in which to use the resources  
49 allocated in the region to public transportation, including a preliminary report on the  
50 feasibility of combining all of the regional public transportation entities into an integrated  
51 regional transit body. This preliminary report shall be completed on or before December  
52 31, 2010, and be delivered to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of  
53 the House of Representatives. The commission shall make a final report of its findings and  
54 recommendations, with specific language for proposed legislation, if any, on or before  
55 August 1, 2011, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House  
56 of Representatives. The commission shall stand abolished on August 1, 2011, unless  
57 extended by subsequent Act of the General Assembly."

58 **SECTION 2.**

59 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
60 without such approval.

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**SECTION 3.**

62 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.