

## House Resolution 1515

By: Representatives Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>, Cheokas of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Lunsford of the 110<sup>th</sup>, Jerguson of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 To create the Georgia Commission For Entrepreneurship Excellence; to provide for the  
2 membership, duties, and operation of the joint executive, House, and Senate commission; and  
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, a Georgia Commission For Entrepreneurship Excellence is needed to create an  
5 inviting environment for entrepreneurs in this state and to make Georgia the #1  
6 DESTINATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS in the United States of America; and

7 WHEREAS, in order to provide economic growth in Georgia, the state must become a world  
8 center for entrepreneurs; and

9 WHEREAS, entrepreneurs are attracted to areas where there is strong public support for the  
10 growth of science, innovation, technology, the arts, energy, and education, and these  
11 economic pillars create advancements that can keep Georgia competitive in the world-wide  
12 economic market; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia loses massive potential return on its research and economic  
14 development investments to other states that have developed plans and infrastructures to  
15 support the growth of entrepreneurship; and

16 WHEREAS, this state cannot afford to ignore the need to attract entrepreneurs and new  
17 businesses to this state, for each year Georgia fails to implement effective initiatives, the state  
18 falls further behind the competition and loses its substantial educational and economic  
19 development investments; and

20 WHEREAS, to become a world economic leader, the government, entrepreneurs, and  
21 universities of this state must be united in a comprehensive effort to showcase the inventory  
22 of our state's incredible assets and brand the State of Georgia as a state with a reputation for  
23 welcoming entrepreneurs; and

24 WHEREAS, by attracting entrepreneurs to this state, Georgia would also attract international  
25 investors and angel and venture capital investors; and

26 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission For Entrepreneurship Excellence should be  
27 established to make Georgia the #1 DESTINATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS in the United  
28 States of America.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
30 GEORGIA that there is created the Georgia Commission For Entrepreneurship Excellence.

31 (a) The committee shall consist of the following 27 voting members:

- 32 (1) President of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce;
- 33 (2) President of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce;
- 34 (3) President of the Georgia Research Alliance;
- 35 (4) Executive Director of the Georgia Council for the Arts;
- 36 (5) Chief executive officer of the Technology Association of Georgia;
- 37 (6) President of the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education;
- 38 (7) President of the Georgia Economic Developers Association;
- 39 (8) Editor of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*;
- 40 (9) Editor of the southeastern edition of the *Wall Street Journal*;
- 41 (10) President of the Georgia Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning;
- 42 (11) Commissioner of economic development;
- 43 (12) Director of the Georgia Small Business Accelerator;
- 44 (13) President of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation;
- 45 (14) Chief economist for Standard & Poor's;
- 46 (15) Chief executive officer for the Kauffman Foundation;
- 47 (16) Executive director for OneGeorgia Authority;
- 48 (17) Director of the Savannah Small Business Accelerator;
- 49 (18) Director of the Georgia Angel Investment Network;
- 50 (19) Chairman of the Ariel Savannah Angel Partners;
- 51 (20) President of the Atlanta Technology Angels;
- 52 (21) Director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses;
- 53 (22) Two members appointed by the Governor who shall be experts in the area of angel  
54 or venture capital investment or successful entrepreneurs;
- 55 (23) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who shall be experts in the  
56 area of angel or venture capital investment or successful entrepreneurs; and
- 57 (24) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who shall  
58 be experts in the area of angel or venture capital investment or successful entrepreneurs.

- 59 (b) In addition, the committee shall consist of the following 8 nonvoting advisory members:
- 60 (1) Chancellor of the University System of Georgia;
- 61 (2) Commissioner of technical and adult education;
- 62 (3) Director of Georgia 4-H;
- 63 (4) Director of the Georgia Future Farmers of America;
- 64 (5) State director of the Boy Scouts of America;
- 65 (6) State director of the Girl Scouts of America;
- 66 (7) Chairperson of the standing Senate Economic Development Committee; and
- 67 (8) Chairperson of the standing House of Representatives Committee on Economic
- 68 Development and Tourism.
- 69 (c) The members appointed by the Governor shall serve initial terms to expire July 1, 2011.
- 70 One member appointed by the President of the Senate and one member appointed by the
- 71 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve an initial term to expire July 1, 2012.
- 72 Other appointed members shall serve an initial term to expire July 1, 2013. Following their
- 73 initial terms, all appointed members shall serve for three-year terms. Initial terms shall
- 74 commence immediately following appointment.
- 75 (d) Voting members may transact business and vote through a designated representative or
- 76 proxy, provided that the appointment of such proxy is made in writing, signed by the
- 77 member, and provides for the dates during which such proxy shall be authorized to serve.
- 78 (e) A quorum for purposes of transacting all business of the committee shall be 15 members.
- 79 Members may attend official meetings via electronic means.
- 80 (f) Vacancies in positions shall be filled in the same manner in which the original position
- 81 was filled. Where a member is designated by appointment or election to a designated office,
- 82 no member position shall be filled until the designated office is filled.
- 83 (g) The Governor shall designate one of the members of the commission to serve as the
- 84 chairperson and one person to serve as the vice chairperson. The chairperson shall call all
- 85 meetings of the committee. The term of the chairperson and vice chairperson shall be for one
- 86 year beginning July 1 of each year; provided, however, that the initial terms of the
- 87 chairperson and vice chairperson shall begin immediately upon appointment and shall expire
- 88 on June 30, 2011. An initial meeting of the commission shall be called no later than one
- 89 week following the enactment of this resolution. The commission shall meet no less than
- 90 once every three months. One meeting each year shall be designated the "Governor's
- 91 Summit on Entrepreneurship," and the Governor shall be invited to attend and address the
- 92 committee regarding issues, concerns, or recommendations related to entrepreneurs and
- 93 economic development in Georgia. The committee may conduct such meetings at such
- 94 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully

95 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes  
96 of this resolution.

97 (h) At the initial meeting of the commission, the chairperson shall assign members to a  
98 committee to investigate, retrieve, and inventory Georgia's economic and innovation assets;  
99 a committee to investigate how financial liquidity problems may be addressed; and a  
100 committee which shall be designated the branding committee that shall focus on making  
101 efforts to brand Georgia as the #1 DESTINATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS in the United  
102 States of America. On or before September 1, 2010, a plan of action shall be prepared and  
103 delivered to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of  
104 Representatives which outlines how financial liquidity problems should be addressed and  
105 what course of action is recommended to help resolve the liquidity problems faced by  
106 entrepreneurs and innovators in Georgia. On or before December 15, 2010, the commission  
107 shall have launched the Brand of Georgia.

108 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake to recommend means  
109 by which an environment of entrepreneurial excellence can be created and how the state can  
110 showcase the inventory of its resources, assets, and opportunities for entrepreneurs. The  
111 commission shall undertake a study of Georgia's applicable laws generally relating to  
112 science, innovation, technology, energy, and entrepreneurship and alternative forms of  
113 investment in these essential valuable resources. The committee shall also study ways to  
114 make Georgia the world's #1 DESTINATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS in the United States  
115 of America. Throughout its existence, the commission shall continue to work on issues  
116 relating to finding liquidity for entrepreneurs and branding Georgia as the state that supports  
117 and welcomes entrepreneurship. The commission shall make recommendations for changes  
118 in legislation and activities or functions of governmental agencies and provide copies of  
119 proposed recommendations and any relevant or supporting reports to the Governor, President  
120 of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives not later than November 1 each  
121 year. Such annual report shall also summarize the activities of the commission for the  
122 preceding year.

123 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall stand abolished on July 1, 2015,  
124 unless further extended by the General Assembly.