

House Resolution 1435 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Parrish of the 156th, Harden of the 147th, and Channell of the 116th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Hotel-Motel Tax and a citizens advisory council for
2 such committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, hotel-motel tax has a significant impact on the economy of the State of Georgia;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the original intent of the hotel-motel tax was for destination marketing; and

6 WHEREAS, the international average spent on tourism promotion is 60.7 percent of the total
7 tax rate, and Georgia spends 29 percent on tourism promotion; and

8 WHEREAS, there are currently over 25 versions of the tax in applicable districts; and

9 WHEREAS, there are numerous stakeholders that must have input in this process; and

10 WHEREAS, comprehensive study should be undertaken to assist the General Assembly in
11 evaluating matters relating to hotel-motel tax administration, collections, accounting, and
12 expenditures.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
14 there is created the House Study Committee on Hotel-Motel Tax to be composed of five
15 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives. The Speaker of the House shall designate a member of the committee as
17 chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall be charged with examining:

- 19 (1) Best practices of other states' hotel-motel tax provisions;
20 (2) The comparative history of the tax since its inception;

- 21 (3) The expenditures of hotel-motel tax moneys for the purpose of promoting tourism,
22 conventions, and trade shows, including such expenditures in support of special events
23 of national or international significance;
- 24 (4) The budgets, audits, and reports, including all such items filed with the Department
25 of Community Affairs as contemplated and required by paragraph (5) of subsection (a)
26 of Code Section 48-13-51 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, including the
27 accuracy of such audits and reports;
- 28 (5) The use of hotel-motel tax funds by local convention and visitors bureaus, including
29 an analysis of at least one small, one medium, and one large convention and visitors
30 bureau;
- 31 (6) Assessment of stakeholders affected by hotel-motel tax; and
- 32 (7) Any other matter dealing with hotel-motel taxes in Georgia.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is further authorized to appoint an
34 advisory council to assist the committee and to appoint one of its members as chairperson
35 of the council. The advisory council shall be composed of one representative from each of
36 the following to provide input to the committee:

- 37 (1) Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia;
- 38 (2) Georgia Municipal Association;
- 39 (3) Association of County Commissioners of Georgia;
- 40 (4) Department of Audits
- 41 (5) Department of Community Affairs;
- 42 (6) Department of Revenue;
- 43 (7) Georgia Department of Economic Development;
- 44 (8) Georgia Hotel and Lodging Association;
- 45 (9) Georgia Economic Developer's Association;
- 46 (10) Department of Natural Resources;
- 47 (11) The Georgia Restaurant Association; and
- 48 (12) A citizen unaffiliated with any of the preceding agencies or organizations.

49 Members of the council shall receive no compensation or allowances for their services.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
51 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
52 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
53 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
54 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
55 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution as would be beneficial to the State

56 of Georgia. The committee is authorized to seek the advice and counsel of persons
57 knowledgeable in the tourism industry and related fields and other persons, groups, and
58 organizations which the committee feels will be able to assist it in its endeavors. In the event
59 the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
60 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2010. The
61 committee and advisory council shall stand abolished on December 31, 2010.