

Senate Resolution 83

By: Senators Staton of the 18th, Powell of the 23rd, Jackson of the 2nd, Douglas of the 17th and Heath of the 31st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Green Information Technology; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that, in
4 the United States alone, 30 to 40 million personal computers (PC), 25 million televisions, and
5 98 million cell phones will be ready for "end-of-life management" in the next few years; and

6 WHEREAS, the accumulation of electronic components which contain small quantities of
7 hazardous or dangerous materials and chemicals in landfills may pose a serious threat to the
8 citizens of Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, despite the efforts of many localities, a majority of citizens in Georgia do not
10 have access to or knowledge of electronics recycling or refurbishment programs; and

11 WHEREAS, many states across the United States, concerned with the cost of cleaning up
12 landfills and the environmental and human impacts, are passing legislation requiring the
13 recycling and reuse of electronic products; and

14 WHEREAS, twelve states have taken steps to address the issue of electronics waste through
15 legislation, using a variety of different models; and

16 WHEREAS, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina have passed laws allowing
17 electronics manufacturers the freedom to tailor their own recycling programs, which allows
18 for convenience and cost benefit passed on to consumers; and

19 WHEREAS, many private companies, nonprofit organizations, and electronics manufacturers
20 have initiated free electronics recycling and refurbishment programs for consumers to recycle
21 their products; and

22 WHEREAS, with rising energy costs, energy consumption and conservation are becoming
23 more important from an environmental and business cost perspective; and

24 WHEREAS, data centers use more electricity than almost any other type of facility, with the
25 EPA estimating that data centers consume about 1.5 percent of all power used in the United
26 States annually; and

27 WHEREAS, the average desktop PC currently wastes one-half of the power it receives
28 before it reaches the processor, memory, disks, or any other computing components; and

29 WHEREAS, information technology, programs, products, and solutions exist that enable
30 organizations and individuals to continue to be effective and efficient, while also reducing
31 their energy and environmental impact; and

32 WHEREAS, organizations like the National Association of State Chief Information Officers,
33 National Governors Association, and the Climate Savers Computing Initiative have
34 encouraged private and public sector partnerships and participation in existing programs and
35 initiatives designed to reduce energy consumption and waste; and

36 WHEREAS, large technology vendors such as Dell, Sun Microsystems, Nortel, HP, IBM,
37 Intel, Microsoft, AMD, and many others are encouraging "green IT" programs and initiatives
38 in both the private and public sectors; and

39 WHEREAS, a number of states like North Carolina, Indiana, and Ohio have adopted laws
40 requiring energy conservation and efficiency standards be considered by state government
41 when purchasing IT hardware or making capital improvements; and

42 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the parameters and best implementation of
43 legislation for reducing energy consumption in the State of Georgia and ensuring disposal
44 of electronics waste does not result in health and environmental hazards for the citizens of
45 Georgia.

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
47 Study Committee on Green Information Technology to be composed of three members of
48 the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall
49 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall
50 call all meetings of the committee.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the collection,
52 recycling, and reuse of electronic products, as well as energy conservation programs and
53 initiatives. Furthermore, the committee shall recommend any action or legislation which the
54 committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at
55 such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise
56 fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and
57 purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances
58 provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The
59 allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
60 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds
61 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
62 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
63 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
64 made on or before December 15, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December
65 15, 2009.