Senate Resolution 402
By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Johnson of the 1st, Mullis of the 53rd, Williams of the 19th, Chapman of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Telecommunications Comprehensive Reform Study Committee; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the adoption of the Telecommunications Competition and Development Act of
4 1995 strategically positioned the State of Georgia to lead the nation in promoting growth and
5 development by encouraging investments in advanced telecommunications technologies,
6 embracing a new regulatory model, and assuring reasonably priced access to services
7 demanded by consumers; and

8 WHEREAS, a manifestation of the success of the 1995 Act is the fact that according to the
9 January, 2009 "High-Speed Services for Internet Access Report" released by the Federal
10 Communications Commission, the State of Georgia continues to lead the nation in the
11 availability of broadband services; and

12 WHEREAS, advanced telecommunications continue to be vital to the state's economic
13 growth and development, research, education, health care, and other vital services; and

14 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia can continue to lead the nation and enhance
15 telecommunications through the adoption of thoughtful and comprehensive reforms which
16 have taken into account technological advancements, the evolution of the marketplace, the
17 necessity of multijurisdictional coordination and cooperation, and the complexity of the
18 telecommunications industry in Georgia today; and

19 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia would once again benefit from the creation of a Joint
20 Telecommunications Comprehensive Reform Study Committee similar to what it did in
21 1994; and
WHEREAS, a Joint Telecommunications Comprehensive Reform Study Committee would provide the appropriate vehicle through which the State of Georgia can identify the appropriate comprehensive telecommunications policy reforms in order to continue to ensure the state is positioned to enhance and embrace a vibrant telecommunications industry and marketplace throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Telecommunications Comprehensive Reform Study Committee to be composed of 27 members as follows:

(1) Five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
(2) Five members of the Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
(3) Five members to be appointed by the Governor; and
(4) Four persons each to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor, including:
   (A) Representatives of the Georgia Public Service Commission;
   (B) Representatives of the telecommunications industry;
   (C) Consumer representatives;
   (D) Members of Georgia's academic and research community; and
   (E) Other persons knowledgeable about telecommunications.

The Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor and shall each designate a member to serve as cochairpersons. The committee shall meet on the call of any cochairperson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall undertake a study and analysis of the status of telecommunications policies including investment, economic development, jobs, and all other matters related to the provision of voice, data, and video services. The study committee shall also conduct a comprehensive analysis of intercarrier relations, universal service, and network neutrality including, but not limited to, the impact on Georgia consumers and companies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct its meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. No allowance shall
be paid to other members of the committee. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the completion of its study and analysis, the study committee shall make recommendations for comprehensive reforms it deems appropriate and in the best interest of the State of Georgia, taking into account any potential multijurisdictional statutory and regulatory conflicts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee is directed to make a report of its findings and recommendations not later than December 15, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December 15, 2009.