

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

22 WHEREAS, a Joint Telecommunications Comprehensive Reform Study Committee would
23 provide the appropriate vehicle through which the State of Georgia can identify the
24 appropriate comprehensive telecommunications policy reforms in order to continue to ensure
25 the state is positioned to enhance and embrace a vibrant telecommunications industry and
26 marketplace throughout the state.

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

30 (1) Five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
31 House;

32 (2) Five members of the Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

33 (3) Five members to be appointed by the Governor; and

34 (4) Four persons each to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor,
35 and Governor, including:

36 (A) Representatives of the Georgia Public Service Commission;

37 (B) Representatives of the telecommunications industry;

38 (C) Consumer representatives;

39 (D) Members of Georgia's academic and research community; and

40 (E) Other persons knowledgeable about telecommunications.

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

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

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct its meetings at such places
51 and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
52 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
53 resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances
54 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the
55 same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. No allowance shall

56 be paid to other members of the committee. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions
57 of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and
58 Senate.

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

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