

The House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications offers the following substitute to SR 402:

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 eight members as follows: four members of the House of
30 Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and four members of the
31 Senate shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. The Speaker of the House and the
32 President of the Senate shall each designate a member to serve as cochairpersons. The
33 committee shall meet on the call of either cochairperson.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall undertake a study and analysis
35 of the status of telecommunications policies including investment, economic development,
36 jobs, and all other matters related to the provision of voice, data, and video services. The
37 study committee shall also conduct a comprehensive analysis of intercarrier compensation,
38 universal service, interconnection, porting, and pricing flexibility, including, but not limited
39 to, the impact on Georgia consumers and companies.

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

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

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