

House Resolution 1359

By: Representatives Gordon of the 162nd, Bryant of the 160th, Stephens of the 161st, Stephens of the 164th, Williams of the 165th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Video Gambling Machines; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the economic downturn is having a critical impact on states around this nation
3 as revenues have greatly declined due to decreased individual spending, the housing
4 meltdown, and high unemployment; and
- 5 WHEREAS, many Georgians are having difficulty making ends meet in these exceptionally
6 historic and challenging times; and
- 7 WHEREAS, state officials have been forced to make difficult decisions in order to craft a
8 constitutionally mandated balanced budget, cutting programs, slashing budgets of state
9 agencies, and requiring furloughs of state employees and teachers; and
- 10 WHEREAS, from 1991 to 1999, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation that
11 amended the state gambling statute, Code Section 16-12-35, to effectively create a state
12 exemption for video gambling machines; and
- 13 WHEREAS, in 2002, a law was passed that banned video gambling machines from being
14 used in Georgia; and
- 15 WHEREAS, reinstating the policy of the 1990's and allowing video gambling machines in
16 Georgia could generate millions of dollars for this state through taxation of the industry; and
- 17 WHEREAS, with state tax collections continuing to fall, it is vital to the future of this state
18 and her residents to find new streams of revenue; and
- 19 WHEREAS, revenues from the reinstatement of video gambling in Georgia could
20 specifically be used to help provide Georgians with health care and be set aside for
21 education, eliminating the need for teachers to take furlough days; and

22 WHEREAS, in these economic times, it is prudent to consider and study all possible sources
23 of revenue for this state, including video gambling machines, a revenue generating method
24 that was successful until 2002.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 there is created the House Study Committee on Video Gambling Machines to be composed
27 of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
28 House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as
29 chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the above
31 issues and recommend any actions or legislation that the committee deems necessary or
32 appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as
33 it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,
34 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The
35 members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
36 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days
37 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
38 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the
39 event that the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations with
40 suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December
41 31, 2010. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2010.