

Senate Resolution 68

By: Senators Loudermilk of the 52nd, Rogers of the 21st, Staton of the 18th, Hill of the 32nd, Albers of the 56th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Science and Technology Strategic Initiative Joint Study Commission; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the field of science and technology is an important and growing sector of the
4 state economy; and

5 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the state develop policies to encourage and facilitate the
6 growth and vigor of this vital field; and

7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is determined to study the best and most efficient path
8 to that goal.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 GEORGIA that there is created the Science and Technology Strategic Initiative Joint Study
11 Commission to be composed of 11 members as follows:

12 (1) One member of the Georgia General Assembly Senate Science and Technology
13 Committee and one member of the Georgia General Assembly Senate Economic
14 Development Committee appointed by the chairperson of the respective committee;

15 (2) One member of the Georgia General Assembly House Committee on Science and
16 Technology and one member of the Georgia General Assembly House Committee on
17 Economic Development appointed by the chairperson of the respective committee;

18 (3) Three individuals from the private sector with a background in science and
19 technology, with one such member each being appointed by the Governor, the President
20 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

21 (4) The commissioner of Economic Development or his or her designee;

22 (5) The Georgia Technology Authority Chief Information Officer or his or her designee;

23 (6) The State School Superintendent or his or her designee; and

24 (7) The chairman of the Board of Regents or his or her designee.

25 The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each
26 appoint a co-chair of the commission. The commission may establish various subcommittees
27 with subject matter expertise to advise the commission on specific matters, which shall be
28 chaired by a member of the study commission. Members of the subcommittees must be
29 experts from Georgia's science and technology community.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall:

- 31 (1) Inventory Georgia's existing assets in the science and technology sectors to determine
32 current strengths and capabilities;
- 33 (2) Conduct review of state and national policies to discern best practices and lessons
34 learned with regard to public policy that encourages advancement of the science and
35 technology sectors;
- 36 (3) Hold meetings around the state to solicit input from science and technology
37 stakeholders, with a specific interest in identifying barriers to growth and progress; and
- 38 (4) Develop specific recommendations with regard to the scope and content of a strategic
39 plan for science and technology in Georgia. Such recommendations shall stipulate what
40 the commission recommends should be excluded from such a plan.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all executive departments, agencies, boards, and
42 commissions and other divisions of the executive branch of state government shall fully
43 cooperate with the commission, and any nonprofit entities designated by the commission that
44 promote and support technology initiatives may assist the commission in the performance
45 of its duties and may provide staff assistance and any other assistance as requested.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
47 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
48 or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
49 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
50 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
51 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
52 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
53 legislative committees. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation.
54 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
55 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives. No later than January 9, 2012,
56 the commission shall submit its recommendations for the development of a strategic plan to
57 the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
58 committee shall stand abolished on January 9, 2012.