

## House Resolution 520

By: Representatives Drenner of the 86<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Frazier of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Williams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Renewable and Sustainable Energy in Georgia; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, experience over the past ten years has demonstrated how dependence on  
4 traditional fossil fuels leads to economic distress when the flow of that energy source is  
5 slowed or disrupted; and

6 WHEREAS, because of its importance to our well-being, the security of traditional fuel  
7 supplies have become of grave concern in recent days, and dependence leaves our society  
8 vulnerable to disruption by persons of ill will; and

9 WHEREAS, sources of sustainable energy surround us, including solar, hydrogen, biomass,  
10 wind, incremental hydropower, and other sources, if only we will take the necessary steps  
11 to utilize fully the existing and developing technology to unlock the energy in those readily  
12 available resources; and

13 WHEREAS, renewable portfolio standards require electric utilities to provide a specified  
14 portion of their power generation from renewable resources, such as biomass, solar, and  
15 wind, and recoverable resources, such as landfill gases and solid waste; and

16 WHEREAS, the majority of the states have mandated renewable portfolio standards, while  
17 many others have voluntary renewable portfolio goals; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2007, Congress enacted the Energy Independence Act designed to increase  
19 energy efficiency, enhance the availability of renewable energy, and increase the production  
20 of clean renewable fuels, and under that Act the federal Environmental Protection Agency  
21 broadened the existing Federal Renewable Fuels Standard, FRS1, into FRS2, increasing the  
22 volume of renewable fuel required to be blended into transportation fuel from 9 billion  
23 gallons in 2008 to 36 billion gallons by 2022; and

24 WHEREAS, sustainable energy is vital to the economy and security of the people of the State  
25 of Georgia and of the United States of America; and

26 WHEREAS, a national goal of 15-20 percent renewable based electricity by the year 2020  
27 is thought by its proponents to offer the least-expensive and most market-friendly method  
28 of nursing steady growth of America's renewable energy industry; and

29 WHEREAS, inconsistent federal policies in the area of renewable energy have frustrated  
30 investors; and

31 WHEREAS, a national RPS is said to have many benefits, but may also have possible  
32 downsides in its implementation within this state; and

33 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Georgia to  
34 comprehensively study the possible implications and ramifications of a national RPS and  
35 determine how to encourage the greater use of renewable energy by establishing goals for  
36 electric utility companies in implementing renewable and recoverable portfolio standards to  
37 set voluntary renewable portfolio goals; and

38 WHEREAS, it is vital that the legislature recognize the economic, environmental, and fuel  
39 diversity benefits of renewable energy resources, encourage the establishment of a market  
40 for renewable energy in Georgia using the state's renewable energy resources, and encourage  
41 the further development of those resources.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
43 there is created the House Study Committee on Renewable and Sustainable Energy in  
44 Georgia to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed  
45 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of  
46 Representatives shall select one of the members appointed as the chairperson of the  
47 committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
49 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
50 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
51 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
52 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
53 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the

54 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim  
55 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless  
56 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
57 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the  
58 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions  
59 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2011.  
60 The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2011.