

House Resolution 1163

By: Representatives Byrd of the 20th, Horne of the 71st, Braddock of the 19th, Holt of the 112th, Brockway of the 101st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts to create the "Georgia Transparency
2 in Government Spending" website; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, spending transparency is essential to sound government; and

4 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon state leaders to continuously answer to the voters and to
5 their constituents who have placed great trust and honor in them; and

6 WHEREAS, public trust is earned through the creation of a transparent government, a
7 government where the people remain informed regarding the spending of tax dollars; and

8 WHEREAS, when spending is done in the open, public officials are usually more
9 accountable, because they know their actions will be subject to public scrutiny; and

10 WHEREAS, public scrutiny of government spending leads to containment of wasted state
11 resources and improves governmental efficiency to the maximum extent possible; and

12 WHEREAS, in March of 2008 the comptroller for the State of South Carolina unveiled that
13 state's first spending transparency website in order to give the taxpayers a "click-of-a-mouse"
14 access to details about how their money is spent; and

15 WHEREAS, South Carolina's Spending Transparency website is currently found at
16 <http://www.cg.sc.gov/localgovspendingtransparency/Pages/default.aspx> and provides the
17 state's monthly spending details, annual spending summaries, spending listed by vendor, state
18 employee charge card usage, and bank account transparency and accountability; and

19 WHEREAS, the creation of a website similar to that found in South Carolina is an easy,
20 inexpensive, and effective way to provide transparency in government and restore the trust
21 of Georgia's citizens in their elected officials; and

22 WHEREAS, an informed citizenry, where each person has access to information related to
23 governmental costs and expenditures, is a vital pillar for a strong, free, democratic society.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 this body urges the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts to:

26 (1) Establish a website entitled "Georgia Transparency in Government Spending";

27 (2) Create the website in a manner that meets or exceeds the standards provided by the
28 South Carolina Spending Transparency website and that includes, at a minimum, monthly
29 spending details, annual spending summaries, spending listed by vendor, state employee
30 charge card usage, and bank account transparency and accountability; and

31 (3) Have Georgia's spending transparency website operational and available to the public
32 not later than July 1, 2012.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the State Auditor and
35 Governor Nathan Deal.