

House Resolution 1948

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118th, Sims of the 119th, Howard of the 121st, Murphy of the 120th, Frazier of the 123rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Finance
2 Authority to set aside the adoption of the Georgia amendments to the 2009 International
3 Energy Conservation Code that mandate blower door tests and third-party inspections and
4 to revise the task force process to ensure a fair assessment of amendments and a fair process
5 of code adoption; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, the home-building industry is very important to the citizens of Georgia and is
7 a very important part of the economy of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, additional regulations increase the cost of building and the price of housing to
9 consumers and create a constraint on an important, struggling industry; and

10 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia was required to adopt the 2009 International Energy
11 Conservation Code (IECC) to comply with federal mandates attached to the receipt of
12 "stimulus" funds; and

13 WHEREAS, a task force was appointed by the Department of Community Affairs which was
14 comprised of 17 members, but only one of which was a builder and one was a code official;
15 the remaining members represented special interest groups, vendors, and state officials; and

16 WHEREAS, this task force adopted an additional 36 pages of amendments to the original
17 2009 IECC which mandated additional, unnecessary costs to builders and consumers while
18 reducing the flexibility and authority of local governments; and

19 WHEREAS, every code adoption and amendment process should weigh carefully and openly
20 any costs versus benefits to be derived from the additional code provisions; and

21 WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia should have confidence that all code adoptions and
22 amendments are free of "sweetheart deals," conflicts of interest, and special interest
23 influences; and

24 WHEREAS, due to the financial impact of the code adoption process, the state should use
25 all reasonable means to inform and solicit input from the license holders of any affected
26 industry; and

27 WHEREAS, the code adoption and amendment process should require that members of the
28 task force should be held to a code of ethics and be prohibited from proposing and voting on
29 amendments that mandate a product or service that they or their employers provide for a fee;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, this process should prohibit members of the task force from entering into
32 contracts with the state to provide services to implement code revisions adopted by the task
33 force; and

34 WHEREAS, this process should require a policy of written and published cost versus benefit
35 analysis, which includes the identification of the parties who did the analysis; and

36 WHEREAS, this process should require reasonable notice of the task force meetings to all
37 licensed builders, contractors, specialty contractors, and code enforcement officials in this
38 state.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body, in the best interests of the State of Georgia, urge the Department
41 of Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to set aside the
42 adoption of the Georgia amendments to the 2009 IECC that mandate blower door tests and
43 third-party inspections and to revise the task force process to ensure a fair assessment of
44 amendments and a fair process of code adoption in accordance with the provisions of this
45 resolution.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of
48 Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority.