

House Resolution 644

By: Representatives Willard of the 51st, Nimmer of the 178th, Dickey of the 140th, Black of the 174th, Smith of the 70th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Timber Security; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia is the largest commercial forestry state in the nation, having a \$25
3 billion impact on the state's economy; and
- 4 WHEREAS, 92 percent of Georgia's 24 million acres of forests are owned by thousands of
5 private landowners; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Georgia's woodland owners and forest product manufacturers desire that
7 commercial forestry be characterized by legal transactions free of both intentional and
8 unintentional unauthorized taking of wood and fiber from private landowners; and
- 9 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of landowners, manufacturers, local governments, and
10 this state that timber harvest operations be conducted legally and with the full knowledge and
11 consent of the timber owner; and
- 12 WHEREAS, many of Georgia's statutes that provide recourse for victims of the unauthorized
13 taking of wood and fiber from their property and that establish penalties for those who take
14 timber without authorization have not been examined or modified in many years.
- 15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
16 there is created the House Study Committee on Timber Security to be composed of six
17 members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members, one of
18 whom shall be from the law enforcement community and one of whom shall be from the
19 forestry community. The chairperson of the House Committee on Judiciary shall serve as
20 a member of the committee and shall serve as the chairperson of the committee. The
21 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
23 needs, issues, and problems described above and recommend any actions or legislation that
24 the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings
25 at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to
26 exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives
27 and purposes of this resolution. Members of the committee shall receive no compensation
28 for their services on the committee and shall not be reimbursed for expenses incurred by
29 them in the performance of their duties as members of the committee. In the event the
30 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed
31 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before January 13, 2014. The committee
32 shall stand abolished on January 13, 2014.