

House Resolution 740

By: Representatives Dollar of the 45th, Stephens of the 164th, Teasley of the 37th, and Drenner of the 85th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Economic Impact of Expanding the Renewable
2 Energy Market in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the gross domestic product in the United States will grow at an average annual
4 rate of 2.9 percent per year through 2030, and electricity consumption will grow over this
5 same period at a rate of 0.8 percent per year, which means electric power consumption, and
6 the accompanying infrastructure to produce and deliver electricity, will be about 43 percent
7 greater in 2030 than it is today, and Georgia accounts for 3.7 percent of total United States
8 electricity consumption, ranking eighth nationally, and is the fourth-fastest growing state in
9 the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, between 2005 and 2010, 49 out of 50 states in this country experienced an
11 increase in their average cost per kilowatt for electricity, and on average over the five years,
12 retail electricity costs in the United States increased by 4.1 percent annually and are
13 continuing to rise; and

14 WHEREAS, experience over the past ten years has demonstrated how the continued
15 dependence on traditional fuel sources has an extreme impact on the economic well-being,
16 security, and health of the people of the State of Georgia and the United States of America;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the current economic models used to determine the generation cost per kilowatt
19 hour of various forms of electricity do not accurately take into account the totality of the
20 costs, including but not limited to government subsidies, long-term health care costs, and
21 water consumption; and

22 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia spends more than \$33 billion annually to purchase energy
23 from other states, primarily from Texas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Wyoming; and

24 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has an abundance of renewable energy resources, including
25 solar, biomass, and recoverable resources, such as landfill gases and solid waste; and

26 WHEREAS, twenty-nine states plus two territories and Washington, D.C. have renewable
27 portfolio standards, and eight states and two territories have renewable portfolio goals; and

28 WHEREAS, renewable portfolio standards are the least expensive and most market friendly
29 method to grow America's renewable energy market and lessen our nation's dependence on
30 foreign oil; and

31 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Georgia to
32 comprehensively study the possible implications and ramifications of a state renewable
33 portfolio standard; and

34 WHEREAS, it is vital that the legislature recognize the crucial need to utilize the state's
35 renewable energy resources to reap an abundance of economic, environmental, and national
36 security benefits, and encourage further development of the renewable energy market in
37 Georgia by establishing goals for electric utility companies to implement renewable and
38 recoverable portfolio standards.

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

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
46 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
47 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
48 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
49 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
50 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
51 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
52 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
53 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
54 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the

55 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
56 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2013.
57 The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2013.