

Senate Resolution 896

By: Senators Tolleson of the 20th, Jeffares of the 17th and Harper of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Legacy Program; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that as stewards of this state's natural
3 resources, Georgians have a moral imperative and economic incentive to conserve our land
4 and water; and

5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia's land and water resources, prime agricultural and forestry
6 lands, and natural, cultural, historic, and recreational areas are a priceless legacy that enhance
7 the health of ecosystems, encourage working landscapes, foster natural resource stewardship,
8 sustain a healthy economy, and promote a sustainable high quality of life for current and
9 future generations of Georgians; and

10 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the State of Georgia to provide stewardship for state lands
11 to protect our natural resources and cultural heritage; and

12 WHEREAS, it is essential to our state economy to conserve working farms and forests; and

13 WHEREAS, the state should provide support for maintenance of local parks and trails; and

14 WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide funding options to acquire critical areas for clean
15 water, game, wildlife, fisheries, and natural resource based outdoor recreation; and

16 WHEREAS, the state should establish funding options through various sources and ensure
17 the most effective use of such funds for the protection and conservation of the state's ample
18 natural resources and land.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Legacy Program
21 to study the need for the state to provide funding options to acquire critical areas for clean

22 water, game, wildlife, fisheries, and natural resource based outdoor recreation. The study
23 committee shall be composed of 11 members as follows: the Chairperson of the Natural
24 Resources and Environment Committee of the House of Representatives; the Chairperson
25 of the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee; two members of the
26 Natural Resources and Environment Committee of the House of Representatives, selected
27 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; two members of the Senate Natural
28 Resources and the Environment Committee, selected by the President of the Senate; the
29 director of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, or his or her designee; the
30 Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, or his or her designee; the
31 commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, or his or her designee; the director
32 of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, or his or
33 her designee; and the commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, or his or
34 her designee. The Governor shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the
35 committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
37 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
38 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
39 of this resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances
40 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the
41 same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Any other public
42 employees who are members of the committee shall receive no compensation from
43 legislative funds but may be reimbursed for expenses by their employers. The funds
44 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
45 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
46 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
47 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2014, at which time
48 the committee shall stand abolished.