

House Resolution 1599

By: Representatives Maxwell of the 17th, Dickson of the 6th, and Taylor of the 79th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code; and for other
- 2 purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, following the repeal of Prohibition, the states were given responsibility for the
- 4 regulation of alcoholic beverages; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia elected a license model of alcohol distribution allowing
- 6 private businesses to operate as manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers under a framework
- 7 of "tied-house" laws designed to ensure the separation of the retail segment from alcohol
- 8 suppliers and distributors under a control structure known as the "three-tier" system; and
- 9 WHEREAS, as a result, the manufacture, sale, and possession of alcohol in Georgia is
- 10 subject to a myriad of complex laws and rules and regulations; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the malt beverage, wine, and distilled spirits industry has changed substantially
- 12 since the three-tier laws were enacted; and
- 13 WHEREAS, certain provisions of Title 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
- 14 "Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code," have undergone many revisions over years while others
- 15 have not been revised in decades; and
- 16 WHEREAS, consequently, in many places there are undefined terms, outdated terminology,
- 17 obsolete provisions, inconsistent references, and other matters in need of review; and
- 18 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of Title 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated
- 19 and other provisions relating to alcoholic beverages is necessary in order to study and
- 20 identify any reforms necessary to provide for and maintain an effective and efficient Code
- 21 that will promote public safety, provide clear guidance to those in the industry, and afford
- 22 those who regulate and enforce the Code the necessary tools to effectively do so; and

23 WHEREAS, it is time that a careful study be conducted of the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage
24 Code regarding what changes are needed to address these issues.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
26 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Alcoholic
27 Beverage Code to be composed of eight members of the General Assembly. Four members
28 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and shall include the Chairperson of Senate
29 Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee and at least one other member of the Senate
30 Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. Four members shall be appointed by the
31 Speaker of the House of Representatives and shall include the Chairperson of the House
32 Committee on Regulated Industries and at least one other member of the House Committee
33 on Regulated Industries. The chairpersons of the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities
34 Committee and the House Committee on Regulated Industries shall serve as cochairpersons.
35 The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a comprehensive study
37 and review of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto
38 and shall include in its final report any recommendations for changes to the Georgia
39 Alcoholic Beverage Code. The committee may conduct its meetings at such places and at
40 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
41 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
42 resolution. The committee is authorized to appoint subcommittees if the appointment of such
43 subcommittees would allow a more expeditious and effective study of the issues. The
44 legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative
45 members of interim legislative committees from the funds appropriated to the Senate and
46 House of Representatives but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
47 additional days are authorized. The committee is directed to make a report of its findings and
48 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, not later than
49 December 1, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2014.