

House Resolution 1803

By: Representatives Setzler of the 35th, Carter of the 175th, and Hamilton of the 24th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Local Government Qualifications Based Selection
2 for Professional Services; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, qualifications based selection (QBS) was established by the Georgia General
4 Assembly in 1981, as codified in Chapter 22 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia
5 Annotated, as the required method of procurement by state agencies for professional services
6 such as architecture, interior design, professional engineering, land surveying, and landscape
7 architecture work; and

8 WHEREAS, pursuant to Code Section 50-22-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 it is the policy of this state to enter into contracts for such professional services on the basis
10 of demonstrated competence and qualification for the types of professional services required
11 at fair and reasonable fees; and

12 WHEREAS, QBS has a long and demonstrated history of success as a procurement tool in
13 use by agencies of this state, including but not limited to the Georgia Department of
14 Transportation, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Georgia State Finance and
15 Investment Commission, University System of Georgia, and Technical College System of
16 Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, licensed architects, professional engineers, and other professionals are
18 responsible for designing the horizontal and vertical structures that make up the built
19 environment in which Georgia's citizens live, work, and play, and the selection of such
20 professionals directly affects the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia's citizens; and

21 WHEREAS, many public works projects undertaken by local governments often involve the
22 use of state appropriations and funding sources for some portion of the total costs of such
23 projects; and

24 WHEREAS, this body has an important interest in both protecting health, safety, and welfare
25 of the citizens of this state as well as ensuring that the taxpayers of this state receive the best
26 value for moneys spent on the professional services associated with public projects; and

27 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the benefits of expanding the codification of
28 QBS as the selection method for local governments and to determine whether QBS could be
29 applied at the local government level while also ensuring that public health, safety, and
30 welfare are appropriately protected; guarding the public's interest in obtaining the best value;
31 honoring home rule and local control by county and city governments; and ensuring that the
32 application of QBS to local governments would not create an undue burden on the
33 procurement processes of local governments.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 there is created the House Study Committee on Local Government Qualifications Based
36 Selection for Professional Services to be composed of seven members of the House of
37 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall
38 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall
39 call all meetings of the committee.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the application
41 of QBS to local governments as described herein. The committee shall recommend any
42 actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee
43 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
44 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
45 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
46 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
47 Georgia Annotated but shall receive the same for not more than three days unless additional
48 days are authorized by the Speaker. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
49 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the
50 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
51 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2014.
52 The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2014.