

Senate Resolution 65

By: Senators Jones II of the 22nd, Fort of the 39th, Henson of the 41st, James of the 35th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Special Tax Exemption Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Georgia has long used various economic development tax credits as a means
3 to attract and retain businesses; and

4 WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacts these tax credits based on assertions of proponents
5 who argue that they are necessary in order to compete for businesses with other national and
6 international cities, to attract or retain a certain employer, or to grow a specific industry; and

7 WHEREAS, there is a lack of concrete analysis to determine whether these tax credits
8 actually accomplish their goals and if they are the most efficient means of growing the
9 economy and creating jobs; and

10 WHEREAS, the confidential nature of company tax records means information on which
11 companies receive the tax credits and how much they receive is not publicly available,
12 leaving independent sources unable to perform an actual cost-benefit analysis on the tax
13 credits.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

15 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Special Tax
16 Exemption Study Committee.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the
18 Senate appointed as follows: three members shall be appointed by the President of the
19 Senate and three members shall be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader. The
20 President of the Senate shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the
21 committee.

22 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall work with independent researchers at the
23 state's research universities to undertake a study of tax records in order to analyze and
24 examine existing economic development tax credits to determine whether employers

25 receiving the credits are actually creating jobs at a higher rate than those that do not
26 receive the tax credits and recommend any action or legislation which the committee
27 deems necessary or appropriate.

28 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
29 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
30 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
31 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

32 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
33 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
34 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
35 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
36 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
37 appropriated to the Senate.

38 (6) **Report.**

39 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
40 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
41 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
42 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

43 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
44 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
45 of this paragraph.

46 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
47 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
48 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
49 the Secretary of the Senate.

50 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
51 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

52 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.