

Senate Resolution 114

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Shafer of the 48th, Cowser of the 46th, Hill of the 6th, Harper of the 7th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Entrepreneur in Residence Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, entrepreneurs are responsible for the creation of thousands of jobs in our
3 economy and are viewed as a key to the economic recovery of Georgia and the nation; and
- 4 WHEREAS, entrepreneurs can face many obstacles that must be overcome in order to
5 succeed, such as access to capital and markets; however, one of the biggest obstacles to the
6 success of entrepreneurs can be government itself; and
- 7 WHEREAS, although entrepreneurs can create a product or service that will take off if they
8 can get it to market, they find complying with government requirements to be a daunting
9 process; and
- 10 WHEREAS, an entrepreneur in residence program would focus attention on ensuring that
11 government is not an impediment to the success of entrepreneurs; and
- 12 WHEREAS, an entrepreneur in residence program would seek to streamline that process by
13 placing experienced entrepreneurs in government for limited periods of time to help identify
14 and resolve problem areas slowing down entrepreneurs from creating jobs and bringing new
15 products to market; and
- 16 WHEREAS, an entrepreneur in residence would be an entrepreneur who has successfully
17 started and operated a small business and who appreciates the fact that even with the best
18 business idea one cannot bring his or her idea to market without complying with certain
19 government requirements; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the entrepreneur in residence program would have two objectives:
21 (1) To identify within government inefficient and overlapping programs that negatively

22 impact entrepreneurs trying to start or expand a business and to recommend solutions;
 23 and
 24 (2) To serve as a visible advocate and mentor for entrepreneurs within government, a
 25 point of contact who knows and understands their needs, concerns, and frustrations with
 26 regard to dealing with government; and

27 WHEREAS, an entrepreneur in residence would:

28 (1) Assist in providing outreach to entrepreneurs and small businesses;
 29 (2) Provide recommendations on ways to streamline and improve government
 30 procedures impacting entrepreneurs;
 31 (3) Recommend ways to improve programs available to entrepreneurs;
 32 (4) Facilitate meetings and forums to educate entrepreneurs on programs and
 33 requirements;
 34 (5) Provide technical assistance or guidance to entrepreneurs in navigating government
 35 programs and requirements; and
 36 (6) Participate in informal working groups of entrepreneurs in residence from various
 37 agencies established to discuss best practices, experiences, obstacles, opportunities, and
 38 recommendations; and

39 WHEREAS, an entrepreneur in residence program would be a simple and powerful way of
 40 bringing into government the types of individuals who have been successful in starting a new
 41 business and who can help support entrepreneurs by making it easier for them to deal with
 42 government.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 44 GEORGIA:

45 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Entrepreneur in
 46 Residence Study Committee.
 47 (2) **Members and officers.**
 48 (A) The committee shall be composed of six members.
 49 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members
 50 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.
 51 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the
 52 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
 53 members as cochairperson.

54 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
55 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
56 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

61 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

62 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
63 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

64 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
65 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
66 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
67 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

68 (6) **Report.**

69 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
70 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
71 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
72 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

73 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
74 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
75 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

76 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
77 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
78 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
79 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

80 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
81 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the
82 minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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