

Senate Resolution 451

By: Senators Jones of the 25th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Williams of the 19th, Hill of the 6th, McKoon of the 29th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Alternatives to Transportation Funding Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

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

5 WHEREAS, transportation is a critical component of Georgia's economic competitiveness
6 as a state; and

7 WHEREAS, numerous tax credits exist in Georgia law which have been enacted based on
8 assertions that they are necessary in order to compete for businesses with other national and
9 international cities, to attract or retain a certain employer, or to grow a specific industry; and

10 WHEREAS, new sources and methods of funding transportation projects are needed to allow
11 the transportation systems in Georgia to keep up with the needs of the population; and

12 WHEREAS, analysis of the current tax credits is needed to determine which credits benefit
13 the entire state and which could be sunsetted; and

14 WHEREAS, the Georgia Ports Authority is a shining example of how an authority structure
15 is beneficial to the operation of a major transportation hub; and

16 WHEREAS, study is needed to identify the numerous tax credits which exist in Georgia law,
17 the dollar amount these tax credits are pulling from the general fund, and how much of these
18 funds could be later appropriated to transportation purposes; and

19 WHEREAS, analysis of converting management of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport
20 to a state authority as a means of improving transportation funding in this state is warranted.

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

22 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Alternatives to
23 Transportation Funding Study Committee.

24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the
25 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
26 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

37 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
38 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
39 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
40 appropriated to the Senate.

41 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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