

Senate Resolution 494

By: Senators Lucas of the 26th, Jones of the 10th, Henson of the 41st, Ginn of the 47th and Orrock of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Effect on Georgia of Normalization of Relations
2 with Cuba; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on December 17, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President
4 Raúl Castro announced the beginning of a process of normalizing relations between Cuba
5 and the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, this has resulted in the relaxation of many trade restrictions with Cuba,
7 including agricultural equipment and commodities; and

8 WHEREAS, many opportunities are opening with regard to trade with Cuba, which could
9 be beneficial to Georgia companies and industries; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia, for example, already exports poultry products to Cuba, and the poultry
11 industry in Georgia accounts for nearly half of Georgia's \$9 billion annual agricultural
12 business; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia is well positioned with its ports and close proximity to Cuba to ship
14 products to the Cuban markets; and

15 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to study what these new developments mean for
16 Georgia businesses and to determine what measures may be needed to allow Georgia
17 businesses to take advantage of these opportunities.

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

19 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
20 on the Effect on Georgia of Normalization of Relations with Cuba.

21 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
22 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
23 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

34 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
35 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
36 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.