

House Resolution 811

By: Representative Kidd of the 145th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Casino Gaming; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the General Assembly desires to explore the feasibility of casino gaming for the
3 sole purpose of accurately projecting the tax revenue potential of a casino and if such
4 revenue could be directed to providing funding to struggling rural and regional hospitals by
5 expanding Medicaid and increasing reimbursements for indigent care expenses; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a study by the Lottery Commission reported that casino gaming will generate
7 revenues exceeding \$1 billion per year; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Georgians have benefited by more than \$16 billion of educational funding
9 provided through lottery; and
- 10 WHEREAS, literally thousands of Georgians frequent casinos in our surrounding and
11 neighboring states, such as North Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama; and
- 12 WHEREAS, forty states, including Georgia, currently allow some form of casino gaming,
13 ranging from pari-mutuel wagering, lottery Vegas style Kenos games, or charitable gaming;
14 and
- 15 WHEREAS, casino gaming is currently legal in 16 states; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Indian casino gaming occurs in 28 states, including nearby states of Alabama,
17 Florida, and North Carolina; and
- 18 WHEREAS, untold numbers of Georgians gamble daily, not only on lottery and Keno, but
19 also on professional football, NCAA basketball, online casino gaming, and other unregulated
20 forms of gambling; and

21 WHEREAS, because Georgia enjoys the benefits of the busiest airport in the world, a casino
22 would contribute to Georgia's position in the global hospitality market, poising Georgia
23 quickly to become the number one convention site in the world, drawing hundreds of
24 thousands of new visitors to Georgia, lodging in Georgia hotels, dining in Georgia
25 restaurants, shopping in Georgia stores, and spending untold millions of dollars with other
26 Georgia businesses, which not only collect and pay taxes, but also employ Georgians; and

27 WHEREAS, a Georgia casino would create between 2,000 - 3,000 jobs; and

28 WHEREAS, several locations that would benefit from tourism and economic development
29 associated with peripheral industries, both within and outside of the metro area, would make
30 excellent sites for a casino, including the nearly 3,000 acre waterfront site of the
31 now-obsolete Georgia Power coal plant, Plant Branch at Lake Sinclair in Putnam County;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, several similar measures have been proposed this session, including House
34 Resolution 1, House Bill 2, and Senate Resolution 143, which seek to provide for pari-mutuel
35 wagering on horse racing, and House Resolution 5 and Senate Resolution 123, which would
36 provide for casino poker room in each county and municipal corporation which has
37 established an entertainment district.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

39 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
40 on Casino Gaming.

41 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members of the
42 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
43 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
44 of the committee.

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

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

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

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

55 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
56 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
57 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
58 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

59 (6) **Report.**

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

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

67 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
68 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
69 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
70 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

71 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
72 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
73 thereof.

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