

Senate Resolution 876

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Wilkinson of the 50th, Ginn of the 47th, Mullis of the 53rd, Harper of the 7th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint High-Speed Broadband Communications Access for all Georgians Study
2 Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, high-speed broadband communications is to the 21st Century what highway
4 construction and electrification were to the development of our rural communities in the 20th
5 Century; and

6 WHEREAS, without up-to-date access to the digital world, Georgia's rural communities have
7 a reduced quality of life and lack a key catalyst for economic growth; and

8 WHEREAS, many primarily rural communities throughout Georgia are at an economic and
9 quality of life disadvantage because they lack access to high-speed broadband
10 communications; and

11 WHEREAS, high-speed broadband communications is required in order for rural
12 communities to compete for company locations and new jobs; and

13 WHEREAS, high-speed broadband removes the barriers to economic development,
14 educational opportunities, quality health care, and a myriad other factors that are part of a
15 thriving and sustainable economy; and

16 WHEREAS, rural economic development within all industries requires high-speed
17 broadband communications as a core element of community infrastructure; and

18 WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of Georgia's underserved households and businesses
19 are in rural areas; and

20 WHEREAS, opportunities for partnerships to address this critical economic development
21 need outside of traditional telecommunications solutions may exist.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 GEORGIA:

24 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint High-Speed
25 Broadband Communications Access for all Georgians Study Committee

26 (2) **Members and officers.**

27 (A) The committee shall be composed of ten members.

28 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the
29 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
30 members as cochairperson.

31 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate as members
32 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

33 (D) The committee may elect other officers as deemed necessary.

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

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

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

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

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

48 (6) **Report.**

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

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

56 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
57 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

58 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
59 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

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

63 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.