

House Resolution 1427

By: Representatives Rakestraw of the 19th, Maxwell of the 17th, Cooper of the 43rd, Rogers of the 29th, Taylor of the 79th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Electronic Cigarettes, E-liquids, and Other Vapor
2 Products; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, electronic cigarettes, e-liquids, and other vapor products are currently available
4 for purchase in this state; and

5 WHEREAS, such vapor products have not been fully studied, so consumers are currently
6 unaware of the potential risks of such products, even when used as intended, and in some
7 cases are unaware of how much nicotine or other potentially harmful chemicals are being
8 inhaled during use; and

9 WHEREAS, vapor products are marketed as a safer alternative to traditional tobacco and as
10 useful tools to assist those attempting to stop using traditional tobacco products or seeking
11 to reduce their use of such products; and

12 WHEREAS, other states have regulated the vapor product industry by prohibiting the sale
13 of some or all of such vapor products, requiring childproof caps and packaging, specifying
14 the ingredients that may be included in such products, and implementing licensing or
15 registration of manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of such products; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration currently regulates cigarettes,
17 cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, and smokeless tobacco and has proposed extending
18 its authority to cover vapor products, including electronic cigarettes and e-liquids, so that it
19 may use its regulatory tools, such as age restrictions and rigorous scientific review of new
20 tobacco products and their claims to reduce tobacco related disease and death; and

21 WHEREAS, until such products are adequately regulated by the federal government, it is
22 important to study all of the issues surrounding electronic cigarettes, e-liquids, and other
23 vapor products while at the same time encouraging economic development in this state

24 through industries and small businesses that are helping grow our economy and provide jobs
 25 by supplying a product for which there is much demand and which may assist in saving
 26 consumers from the use of products which are known to be harmful.

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

28 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
 29 on Electronic Cigarettes, E-liquids, and Other Vapor Products.

30 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
 31 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 32 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
 33 of the committee.

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 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
 38 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
 39 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
 40 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.

48 (6) **Report.**

49 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
 50 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson 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 chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
 55 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 chairperson of the committee and filed with
 59 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

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