

Senate Resolution 1044

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Ginn of the 47th, Williams of the 19th, Williams of the 27th, Unterman of the 45th and others

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Craft Brewery and Distillery Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the craft beer and distiller industries are fast-growing markets on a national  
3 level and show tremendous potential for growth in job creation and economic impact for the  
4 State of Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks forty-fifth out of 50 states in craft breweries per capita and  
6 forty-first out of 50 states in economic impact from craft breweries; and
- 7 WHEREAS, forty-eight states allow breweries to sell beer directly on their premises, 48  
8 states allow breweries to sell food, and 34 states allow for self-distribution by craft breweries,  
9 while Georgia allows none of these; and
- 10 WHEREAS, North Carolina, with the same population as Georgia, employs more than twice  
11 as many people in the craft beer industry; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Georgia failed to secure the new factories of Sierra Nevada, New Belgium, and  
13 Oskar Blues which are projected to have a \$1.25 billion impact per annum on North  
14 Carolina's economy; and
- 15 WHEREAS, craft breweries in sister states are, on average, two and a half times as profitable  
16 per barrel of beer produced than craft breweries in Georgia; and
- 17 WHEREAS, sister states have endeavored to establish more competitive regulatory structures  
18 for craft breweries and distilleries in order to incentivize growth in these key industries while  
19 Georgia's relevant alcohol laws have remained largely unchanged for decades; and

20 WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia desire to modernize Georgia's brewery and distillery  
 21 laws so as to support current craft breweries and distilleries and also to attract new businesses  
 22 and promote tourism to Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, the breweries and distilleries in Georgia have demonstrated their high regard  
 24 for state, city, and county and have expressed continued commitment to public safety and  
 25 community involvement; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia is often touted by its leaders as the top state for business, and Georgia  
 27 endeavors to keep such designation; and

28 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the General Assembly to study the laws, rules, and  
 29 regulations regulating breweries and distilleries and consider what changes may need to be  
 30 made in order to support and ensure the growth of these key industries.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
 32 GEORGIA:

33 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Craft Brewery and  
 34 Distillery Study Committee.

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

36 (A) The committee shall be composed of eight members.

37 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members  
 38 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

39 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the  
 40 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
 41 members as cochairperson.

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

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

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

50 The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in  
 51 Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances  
 52 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for

53 more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out  
54 the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate and  
55 the House of Representatives.

56 **(6) Report.**

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

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

64 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
65 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
66 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed  
67 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

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