

House Resolution 1684

By: Representatives Kidd of the 145th, Stephens of the 164th, Powell of the 32nd, and Maxwell of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Casino Gaming; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives desires to explore the feasibility of casino gaming
3 for the purposes of accurately projecting the tax revenue potential of casinos in this state and
4 assessing whether such revenue if paid into the general treasury would be used to assist in
5 HOPE scholarship funding, to provide property tax relief, and to aide with health care
6 affordability by helping struggling rural and regional hospitals, by expanding Medicaid, by
7 increasing reimbursements for indigent care expenses, and by providing mental health
8 services; and

9 WHEREAS, a study by the Georgia Lottery Corporation reported that casino gaming would
10 generate revenues exceeding \$1 billion per year; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgians have benefited by more than \$20 billion as result of educational
12 funding provided through the lottery; and

13 WHEREAS, more than one million Georgians frequent casinos each year in neighboring
14 states, such as North Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama; and

15 WHEREAS, forty states, including Georgia, currently allow some form of casino gaming,
16 including pari-mutuel wagering, lotteries, Vegas style keno games, or charitable gaming; and

17 WHEREAS, untold numbers of Georgians gamble daily on not only the lottery and keno but
18 also professional football, NCAA basketball, online casino gaming, and other unregulated
19 forms of gambling, some of which are currently illegal in Georgia; and

20 WHEREAS, because Georgia enjoys the benefits of the busiest international airport in the
21 world, it is worth studying the impact casino gaming might have on Georgia's position in the
22 global hospitality market and whether such activity would poise Georgia to quickly become

23 the number one convention site in the world, drawing hundreds of thousands of new visitors
24 to Georgia who will lodge in Georgia hotels, dine in Georgia restaurants, shop in Georgia
25 stores, and spend untold millions of dollars with other Georgia businesses, which not only
26 collect and pay taxes but also employ Georgians; and

27 WHEREAS, prior studies have estimated that allowing casino gaming in Georgia would
28 create between 3,000 and 4,000 jobs; and

29 WHEREAS, several locations in this state might benefit from tourism and economic
30 development associated with peripheral industries, both within and outside of the metro area,
31 and would make excellent sites for a casino, including, but not limited to, the nearly 3,000
32 acre waterfront site of the now-obsolete Georgia Power coal plant, Plant Branch at Lake
33 Sinclair in Putnam County; and

34 WHEREAS, it is important that the House of Representatives study the impact casino
35 gaming might have on the tax revenues of this state and how such revenues might be best
36 used to benefit all Georgians.

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

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

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

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

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

51 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
52 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
53 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
54 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.

55 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
56 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

57 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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