

House Resolution 1719

By: Representative Greene of the 151st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Hydrilla Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, hydrilla is an invasive aquatic plant that was introduced into United States
3 waterways in the middle of the twentieth century; and

4 WHEREAS, since that time, hydrilla has spread rapidly throughout the country, costing
5 millions of dollars in control measures each year; and

6 WHEREAS, hydrilla was discovered in the Walter F. George Reservoir in 2002; and

7 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to examine the following aspects of the hydrilla problem
8 in Georgia:

9 (1) The current and future economic and ecological impact of the plant with regard to the
10 State of Georgia;

11 (2) The current methods of eradication and control utilized by the state, as well as any
12 successful methods undertaken in neighboring jurisdictions;

13 (3) Any existing federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to control,
14 containment, or eradication; and

15 (4) Any other matters related to the spread of hydrilla in this state which the committee
16 deems relevant.

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

18 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Hydrilla Study
19 Committee.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The study committee shall be composed of nine members
21 of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives as follows:

23 (A) Three members, including the chairperson, of the House Committee on Natural
24 Resources and Environment. The chairperson of the House Committee on Natural
25 Resources and Environment shall serve as chairperson of the study committee;

26 (B) Three members, including the chairperson, of the House Committee on Agriculture
27 and Consumer Affairs; and

28 (C) Three members, including the chairperson, of the House Committee on Economic
29 Development and Tourism.

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

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

37 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
38 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
39 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
40 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
41 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
42 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

43 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

55 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
56 House of Representatives copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
57 thereof.

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