

## House Resolution 848

By: Representatives Tanner of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Coomer of the 14<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, and Hanson of the 80<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Commission on Transit Governance and Funding; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia needs a system of regional, integrated, and comprehensive  
3 mass transportation in order for metropolitan areas to thrive economically; and
- 4 WHEREAS, it is important to study and assess the needs for and means of providing a  
5 system of mass transportation and mass transportation facilities for any one or more  
6 metropolitan areas in this state; and
- 7 WHEREAS, such study should include an analysis of potential methods of funding such  
8 system or systems and develop a long-term investment strategy for such system or systems;  
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, such investigation should assess and develop methods for planning projects  
11 between and among federal, state, and local governments and authorities charged with  
12 planning responsibilities for such purposes by state or federal law; and
- 13 WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasize creating efficiency and  
14 coordination among providers of mass transportation and offer solutions to improve mobility  
15 in this state; and
- 16 WHEREAS, study is necessary to develop a unified regional governance structure for mass  
17 transportation in a metropolitan area or areas, along with determining a means of funding  
18 construction and operation of mass transportation and mass transportation facilities; and
- 19 WHEREAS, such study may analyze the benefits of developing alternative freight routes as  
20 a means of improving transportation throughout regions and this state; and

21 WHEREAS, subject to availability of funds from the budget of the House of Representatives,  
22 such study may include a contract for the provision of private consulting and any other  
23 services for purposes of addressing the needs identified in this resolution; and

24 WHEREAS, any professionals retained to assist in analysis pursuant to this resolution shall  
25 be professionals in the field of analyzing mass transportation with global or national  
26 prominence for:

- 27 (A) Experience working with multiple mass transportation providers;
- 28 (B) Experience delivering mass transportation strategy for multijurisdictional or  
29 state-wide entities;
- 30 (C) Strong financial consulting practices that have experience with multiple mass  
31 transportation funding or financial approaches;
- 32 (D) Approaches to promoting economic development; and
- 33 (E) Demonstrated knowledge and proven experience in strategic development.

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

35 (1) **Creation of House commission.** There is created the House Commission on Transit  
36 Governance and Funding.

37 (2) **Members and officers.** The commission shall consist of the following members:

- 38 (A) Six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
39 House of Representatives, including the chairperson of the House Committee on  
40 Transportation and a member representing rural areas of Georgia;
- 41 (B) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who  
42 represent entities which provide mass transportation or a county which provides mass  
43 transportation;
- 44 (C) Four members who are residents of this state appointed by the Speaker of the  
45 House of Representatives;
- 46 (D) The commissioner of transportation, ex officio;
- 47 (E) The executive director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, ex  
48 officio;
- 49 (F) The chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority,  
50 ex officio; and
- 51 (G) The directors of all metropolitan planning organizations, ex officio, none of whom  
52 shall have voting rights as members of the commission.

53 The Speaker shall designate a legislative member of the commission as chairperson of  
54 the commission.

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

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

62 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

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

65 (B) Members of the commission who are state officials, other than legislative  
66 members, or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services  
67 on the commission, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the  
68 performance of their duties as members of the commission in the same manner as they  
69 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

70 (C) Members of the commission who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
71 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
72 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
73 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
74 employees.

75 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
76 of the commission for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
77 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
78 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement  
79 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the  
80 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated  
81 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

82 (6) **Report.**

83 (A) In the event the commission adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
84 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the  
85 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
86 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

87 (B) In the event the commission adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
88 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)  
89 of this paragraph.

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

92 commission. A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the  
93 commission and filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

94 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the  
95 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the commission in  
96 lieu thereof.

97 (7) **Abolishment.** The commission shall submit the report and proposal required by  
98 paragraph (6) not later than December 31, 2018; provided, however, that with approval  
99 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the commission may continue its study  
100 until December 31, 2019, at which time its proposal shall be published and the  
101 commission shall stand abolished.