

## House Resolution 1224

By: Representatives Gonzalez of the 117<sup>th</sup>, McClain of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Drenner of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Wallace of the 119<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Establishment of a Living Wage; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the minimum hourly wage for employees covered by the federal Fair Labor  
4 Standards Act is currently \$7.25, and for those employees who are not covered under such  
5 Act, the minimum hourly wage is \$5.15 in the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, a full-time employee earning the federal minimum wage earns only \$15,080.00  
7 per year, which falls below the federal poverty level for a family of two; and

8 WHEREAS, minimum wage rates are not indexed for inflation, leading to a continuing loss  
9 of minimum wage earners' already limited purchasing power; and

10 WHEREAS, nearly one out of every five individuals in Georgia lives in poverty, and the  
11 poverty rate among Georgians is higher in rural areas; and

12 WHEREAS, members of historically marginalized communities, including African  
13 Americans and Hispanics, are disproportionately impacted by poverty in Georgia, and  
14 longstanding racial and gender wage gaps have led to significant wage inequality in this  
15 state; and

16 WHEREAS, a living wage is an hourly rate of pay designed to provide the amount of income  
17 adjusted for inflation necessary for a worker to maintain a reasonable standard of living; and

18 WHEREAS, establishing a living wage in the State of Georgia is a necessary step to reduce  
19 the poverty rate and create a more equitable income distribution for historically  
20 disadvantaged groups in Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, a living wage would also reduce racial and gender bias in employment, promote  
22 upward mobility for employees and their families, lead to continued growth in the state's  
23 economy, and sustain and even improve Georgia's reputation as the number one place to do  
24 business; and

25 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the best, most practical method to use in  
26 implementing a living wage in this state.

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 the Establishment of a Living Wage.

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.** Members of the committee who are members of the  
42 General Assembly shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of  
43 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution  
44 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless  
45 additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
46 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

47 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

62 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.