

Senate Resolution 19

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Gooch of the 51st, Watson of the 1st, Miller of the 49th and Dugan of the 30th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the current and future economic health of Georgia relies on a thriving and
3 productive freight industry; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia needs a comprehensive, strategic business plan to develop state-wide
5 freight and logistics infrastructure in order for this state to remain economically competitive;
6 and
- 7 WHEREAS, it is important to study and assess the needs for and means of providing for a
8 system of freight and logistics investment projects and priorities in this state; and
- 9 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the best course of action with regard to funding
10 and policy development relating to freight and logistics to ensure that action taken over the
11 next several years will result in the growth and support of this important industry; and
- 12 WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasize creating efficiency and
13 coordination among providers of freight and logistics and offer solutions to improve mobility
14 across this state; and
- 15 WHEREAS, such study may analyze the benefits of developing alternative freight routes as
16 a means of improving regional transportation and transportation throughout this state; and
- 17 WHEREAS, subject to availability of funds from the budget of the Senate and the House of
18 Representatives, such study may include a contract for the provision of private consulting
19 and any other services deemed necessary for purposes of addressing the areas identified in
20 this resolution; and

21 WHEREAS, any professionals retained to assist in analysis or consultation pursuant to this
 22 resolution shall be professionals in freight and logistics analysis, with global or national
 23 prominence in the following areas:

- 24 (1) Experience working with multiple freight and logistics providers;
- 25 (2) Experience delivering freight and logistics strategy for multijurisdictional or
 26 state-wide entities;
- 27 (3) Strong financial consulting practices that have applicability to multiple funding or
 28 financial approaches for freight and logistics;
- 29 (4) Approaches to promoting economic development; and
- 30 (5) Demonstrated knowledge and proven experience in strategic development.

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

32 (1) **Creation of joint commission.** There is created the Georgia Commission on Freight
 33 and Logistics.

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

35 (A) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
 36 the chairperson of the Senate Transportation Committee;

37 (B) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
 38 House of Representatives, including the chairperson of the House Committee on
 39 Transportation;

40 (C) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who represent entities
 41 which provide freight and logistics services or possess expertise in the operations of a
 42 major airport hub;

43 (D) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who
 44 represent entities which provide freight and logistics services or possess expertise in the
 45 operations of a major airport hub;

46 (E) Four members who are residents of this state, with two appointed by the President
 47 of the Senate and two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

48 (F) The commissioner of transportation, ex officio;

49 (G) The executive director of the Georgia Ports Authority, ex officio; and

50 (H) The directors of all metropolitan planning organizations, ex officio, none of whom
 51 shall have voting rights as members of the commission.

52 The chairpersons of the Senate Transportation Committee and the House Committee on
 53 Transportation shall serve as cochairpersons of the commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

81 (6) **Report.**

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

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

89 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
90 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the
91 commission. A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the
92 commission and filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of
93 Representatives.

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

97 (7) **Abolishment.** The commission shall submit the report and proposal required by
98 paragraph (6) not later than December 31, 2019, at which time such proposal shall be
99 published and the commission shall stand abolished.