

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

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Georgia Commission on Freight, Innovation, and Logistics; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the current and future economic health of Georgia relies on a thriving and
4 productive freight industry; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia needs a comprehensive, strategic business plan to develop state-wide
6 freight and logistics infrastructure in order for this state to remain economically competitive
7 and to remain a leader in innovation related to logistics; and

8 WHEREAS, it is important to study and assess the needs for and means of providing for a
9 system of freight, innovation, and logistics investment projects and priorities both within and
10 outside the metro Atlanta area; and

11 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the best course of action with regard to funding
12 and policy development relating to freight and logistics to ensure that action taken over the
13 next several years will result in the growth and support of this important industry; and

14 WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasize creating efficiency and
15 coordination among providers of freight, innovation, and logistics in an effort to offer
16 solutions to improve mobility and to ensure the creation of appropriate educational and
17 vocational programs to meet the future needs of this state; and

18 WHEREAS, such study may analyze the benefits of developing alternative freight routes as
19 a means of improving regional transportation and transportation throughout this state; and

20 WHEREAS, subject to availability of funds from the budget of the Senate and the House of
21 Representatives, such study may include a contract for the provision of private consulting

22 and any other services deemed necessary for purposes of addressing the areas identified in
23 this resolution; and

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

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

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

- 35 (1) **Creation of joint commission.** There is created the Georgia Commission on Freight,
36 Innovation, and Logistics.
- 37 (2) **Members and officers.** The commission shall consist of the following members:
 - 38 (A) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
39 the chairperson of the Senate Transportation Committee;
 - 40 (B) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
41 House of Representatives, including the chairperson of the House Committee on
42 Transportation;
 - 43 (C) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who represent entities
44 which provide freight and logistics services or possess expertise in the operations of a
45 major airport hub;
 - 46 (D) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who
47 represent entities which provide freight and logistics services or possess expertise in the
48 operations of a major airport hub;
 - 49 (E) Four members who are residents of this state, with two appointed by the President
50 of the Senate and two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - 51 (F) The executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association;
 - 52 (G) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia;
 - 53 (H) The chairperson of the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning
54 Organizations;
 - 55 (I) The commissioner of transportation, ex officio; and
 - 56 (J) The executive director of the Georgia Ports Authority, ex officio.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

86 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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