

House Resolution 408

By: Representatives Setzler of the 35th, Oliver of the 82nd, Jones of the 25th, Stephens of the 164th, and Martin of the 49th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Innovation and Emerging Technologies Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's technology industry and its culture of innovation are key components
4 in the continued financial growth of businesses across the state and a vital link in Georgia's
5 economy; and

6 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is committed to fostering the development and success of
7 technology sectors and their ability to create, expand, and sustain leading technological
8 innovations that positively impact the economy and our quality of life; and

9 WHEREAS, all executive departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and other divisions
10 of the executive branch of state government shall fully cooperate with the committee, and
11 any nonprofit entities designated by the committee that promote and support technology
12 initiatives may assist the committee in the performance of its duties and may provide staff
13 assistance and any other assistance as requested; and

14 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the state identify policies to encourage, facilitate, and
15 promote emerging technologies that foster innovation and growth throughout the state.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 GEORGIA:

18 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Innovation and
19 Emerging Technologies Study Committee.

20 (2) **Members and officers.**

21 (A) The committee shall be composed of 14 members as follows.

22 (i) Two members of the Senate Science and Technology Committee and one member
23 of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee appointed by the
24 President of the Senate;

- 25 (ii) Two members of the House Committee on Science and Technology and one
26 member of the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism appointed
27 by the Speaker of the House;
- 28 (iii) Three individuals from the private sector with a background in science and
29 technology, with one such member each being appointed by the Governor, the
30 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 31 (iv) The commissioner of economic development or his or her designee;
- 32 (v) The Georgia Technology Authority Chief Information Officer or his or her
33 designee;
- 34 (vi) The State School Superintendent or his or her designee;
- 35 (vii) The chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
36 or his or her designee; and
- 37 (viii) The chairperson of the Technical College System of Georgia or his or her
38 designee.
- 39 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one of such members
40 as cochairperson.
- 41 (C) The President of the Senate shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.
- 42 (D) The committee may establish various subcommittees with subject matter expertise
43 to advise the committee on specific matters, which shall be chaired by a member of the
44 study committee. Members of the subcommittees must be experts from Georgia's
45 Innovation Economy.
- 46 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
47 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
48 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. In particular, the
49 committee shall:
- 50 (A) Inventory Georgia's existing assets in innovation and emerging technologies to
51 determine current strengths and capabilities;
- 52 (B) Conduct review of state and national policies to discern best practices and lessons
53 learned with regard to public policy that encourages advancement of innovation and
54 emerging technologies;
- 55 (C) Hold meetings around the state to solicit input from stakeholders, with a specific
56 interest in identifying barriers to growth and progress; and
- 57 (D) Develop specific recommendations with regard to the scope and content of a
58 strategic plan for innovation in Georgia. Such recommendations shall also stipulate
59 exclusions from such a plan.
- 60 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The
61 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem

62 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform
63 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

64 **(5) Allowances and funding.**

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

67 (B) Members of the committee who are not legislators shall serve without
68 compensation.

69 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
70 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
71 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
72 appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate.

73 **(6) Report.**

74 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
75 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
76 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
77 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

78 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
79 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to subparagraph
80 (C) of this paragraph.

81 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
82 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
83 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
84 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

85 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk
86 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes
87 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

88 (E) No later than December 31, 2019, the commission shall submit its
89 recommendations for the development of a strategic plan to the Governor, the President
90 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

91 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.