

House Resolution 172

By: Representatives Smith of the 133rd and Parsons of the 44th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Georgia Utility Facility Safety Improvements; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it is essential to protect the public from physical harm, prevent injury to persons
4 and property, and prevent interruptions of utility service resulting from damages to utility
5 facilities caused by blasting or excavating operations; and

6 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and the cities, counties, and railroad companies therein
7 own and operate additional assets, such as traffic control devices and traffic management
8 systems, that are not currently considered utility facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, there should be an evaluation of current buried facility exemptions and the
10 necessary procedures that govern such exemptions; and

11 WHEREAS, there has been such an increase in the number of locate requests in the state that
12 there may need to be a change in associated processes in order to maintain and further
13 improve safety and efficiency; and

14 WHEREAS, a study is needed to evaluate and determine each of these issues and whether
15 legislative or other action may be beneficial.

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

17 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
18 on Georgia Utility Facility Safety Improvements.

19 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members. The
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the House of
21 Representatives to serve on the committee, and the chairperson of the Georgia Utility
22 Coordinating Council's Legislative Committee shall also serve on the committee and shall
23 be a nonvoting member. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as
24 chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

35 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
36 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
37 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
38 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
39 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

40 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
41 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
42 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
43 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
44 employees.

45 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
46 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
47 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
48 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement
49 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the
50 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated
51 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

52 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

67 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.