

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to HR 222:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Annexation and Cityhood; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the pressure from growth and development is expected to increase in the future;

3 and

4 WHEREAS, such pressure often results in the annexation of unincorporated areas of a county

5 without due consideration of the voices of local property owners who are adversely impacted

6 by the decisions of the governing body of a local government for which they have no say in

7 electing; and

8 WHEREAS, such pressure has also resulted in a boom in cityhood movements, seeking to

9 incorporate new municipalities that potentially lead to fragmented and duplicated

10 government services; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2007 the General Assembly enacted Article 7 of Chapter 36 of Title 36 of

12 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to provide an annexation dispute resolution

13 procedure; and

14 WHEREAS, such annexation dispute resolution procedure has not been amended or subject
15 to legislative review since its enactment; and

16 WHEREAS, the last time the General Assembly revised Chapter 31 of Title 36 of the
17 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the incorporation of new municipalities, was
18 in 2015; and

19 WHEREAS, a thorough study of annexation dispute resolution and cityhood procedures is
20 long overdue so as to determine what appropriate revisions are needed to avoid the abuse of
21 citizens of this state.

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

23 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
24 on Annexation and Cityhood.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
26 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
28 of the committee.

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

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

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

37 The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in
38 Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances
39 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for
40 more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out
41 the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of
42 Representatives.

43 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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