

Senate Resolution 102

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Beach of the 21st, Miller of the 49th, Ginn of the 47th, Jones of the 25th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Georgia Commission on E-Commerce and Freight Infrastructure Funding; and
2 for other purposes.

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

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics met throughout 2019 and
9 2020 and produced an excellent summary of Georgia's freight and logistics future; and

10 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly accelerated the growth of
11 e-commerce in our nation and in our state; and

12 WHEREAS, our state's future economic growth is significantly dependent upon our ability
13 to react to this growth appropriately; and

14 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics established that for future
15 economic success, the state needs to invest an additional \$1.5 billion annually in our freight
16 and logistics infrastructure; and

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

21 WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasize safety for our state's
22 commuters, access for employees and employers, and speed and efficiency of commerce; and

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

26 WHEREAS, subject to availability of funds appropriated to the budget of the Georgia
27 Department of Transportation, such study may include a contract for the provision of private
28 consulting and any other services deemed necessary for purposes of addressing the goals and
29 objectives identified in this resolution; and

30 WHEREAS, any professionals retained to assist in analysis or consultation pursuant to this
31 resolution shall be professionals in economics, freight, or logistics analysis, with global or
32 national prominence in the following areas:

- 33 (1) Working with multiple freight and logistics providers;
- 34 (2) Delivering freight and logistics strategy for multi-jurisdictional or state-wide entities;

- 35 (3) Strong financial consulting practices that have applicability to multiple funding or
36 financial approaches for freight and logistics;
- 37 (4) Approaches to promoting economic development;
- 38 (5) Knowledge and proven experience in strategic development; and
- 39 (6) Proficiency in engaging consumers for purposes of developing research, quantifying
40 data trends, and analyzing the current marketplace.

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

- 42 (1) **Creation of joint commission.** There is created the Georgia Commission on
43 E-Commerce and Freight Infrastructure Funding.
- 44 (2) **Members and officers.** The commission shall consist of the following members:
- 45 (A) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
46 the chairperson of the Senate Transportation Committee;
- 47 (B) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
48 House of Representatives, including the chairperson of the House Committee on
49 Transportation;
- 50 (C) The executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association or his or her designee;
- 51 (D) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia or his
52 or her designee;
- 53 (E) The president or chairperson of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce or his or her
54 designee;
- 55 (F) The commissioner of transportation, ex officio; and
- 56 (G) The executive director of the Georgia Ports Authority, ex officio.
- 57 The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each
58 select a member to 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
93 subparagraph (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 pursuant to
103 paragraph (6) not later than December 31, 2021, at which time such proposal shall be
104 published and the commission shall stand abolished.