

Senate Resolution 314

By: Senators Anavitarte of the 31st, Gooch of the 51st, Anderson of the 24th, Summers of the 13th, Cowser of the 46th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Benefits of Solar Energy in Georgia; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, among the states, Georgia will be top five in installed solar capacity in 2024;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, approximately 97 percent of Georgia's solar capacity is large utility-scale; and

6 WHEREAS, the state's need for efficient and low-cost energy is increasing; and

7 WHEREAS, solar energy is the cheapest form of energy per kilowatt in Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgians need access to residential, commercial, distributed generation, and
9 community solar projects to lower energy burdens and create local jobs; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgians who invest in solar energy at their homes or businesses can mitigate
11 rising electric bills; and

12 WHEREAS, homegrown solar energy can increase Georgia's grid stability and security; and

13 WHEREAS, there are solar arrays in more than 70 counties in Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, solar energy has been a major economic driver in Georgia, attracting tens of
15 thousands of jobs to Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, study is needed to review the benefits of solar energy and develop potential
17 legislation or other action that would maximize such benefits and further promote solar
18 energy in Georgia.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

20 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
21 on the Benefits of Solar Energy in Georgia.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members of the
23 Senate as follows: the chairperson of the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities
24 Committee, the chairperson of the Senate majority caucus, the chairperson of the Senate
25 minority caucus, the Senate majority whip, the vice chairperson of the Senate minority
26 caucus, and two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.
27 The President shall designate one of such members as chairperson of the committee.

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

31 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
32 may conduct meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
33 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
34 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee may call upon
35 persons with expertise in solar energy as deemed necessary by the committee to fully
36 explore the purposes of this resolution.

(5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than ten days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate.

(6) **Report.**

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

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

(C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee. A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with the Secretary of the Senate. Any member of the committee may file a minority report that shall accompany the majority report.

(D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

(7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2023.