

Senate Resolution 786

By: Senators Kennedy of the 18th, Anderson of the 24th, Goodman of the 8th, Watson of the 11th and Walker III of the 20th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Advancing Forest Innovation in Georgia Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, existing and new industries in the State of Georgia are focused on investing,
4 adopting, and advancing innovative and sustainable solutions for their businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, this state remains the number one state in the country for the forestry, timber,
6 and forest products industries; and

7 WHEREAS, families across our state count on forestry jobs and forestland investments to
8 earn a living in order to own a home, send their kids to college, retire, and otherwise live
9 economically successful lives in their hometowns; and

10 WHEREAS, numerous shifts across both the forestry industry and the broader global
11 economy have created a historically unprecedented fast pace of change in the forestry
12 industry; and

13 WHEREAS, in order for the State of Georgia to retain the large-scale facilities needed to
14 process our timber products and support fair pricing in the future, numerous investments in

15 training, environmental compliance, safety and, most importantly, new technologies, will be
16 required; and

17 WHEREAS, we may be able to leverage the forest products present in abundance in our state
18 to fill critical needs in aviation fuel, energy generation, manufacturing, and other areas; and

19 WHEREAS, a study would be beneficial to examine how public policy can play a role in
20 encouraging the continued investment in our state for facilities used to create sustainable
21 manufacturing components, practices, energy sources, and other products in high global
22 demand from Georgia forest products.

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

24 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Advancing Forest
25 Innovation in Georgia Study Committee.

26 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the
27 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate one
28 such member of the committee as chairperson 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 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
38 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

39 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
40 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
41 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
42 appropriated to the Senate.

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 Secretary of the Senate.

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

57 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.