

House Resolution 1505

By: Representatives Dickey of the 145th, Meeks of the 178th, Campbell of the 171st, Corbett of the 174th, and Cannon of the 172nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Solar Facility Development; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia Conservancy's Georgia Now and Forever initiative determined that
- 3 Georgia lost approximately 2.6 million acres of crop, hay, and pasture land from 1974
- 4 to 2016, and such losses continue today; and
- 5 WHEREAS, there is a critical need for an enhanced energy production capacity in Georgia
- 6 given the current and expected increase in demand across the state; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the implications and effects of solar facilities on farmland are largely unknown
- 8 and there exists an increasing amount of hesitancy among Georgia's farmers and producers
- 9 to allow further development of these facilities in their communities without this knowledge;
- 10 and
- 11 WHEREAS, preservation of our state's farmland by mitigating the placement of solar
- 12 facilities on productive farmland and encouraging siting of solar facilities on marginal
- 13 farmland or timberland is essential; and

WHEREAS, additional legislative measures may be necessary to provide local communities with the ability to protect Georgia's farmland as a critically important state resource and to fully evaluate existing and new solar technology; and

WHEREAS, a study of existing measures in other states would be beneficial to evaluate the development and siting of solar facilities, to inform all stakeholders of the benefits and consequences of increased solar facility development, and to identify any short-term or long-term implications that could impact the value of Georgia's vitally important farmland, as well as potential solutions.

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

(1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee on Solar Facility Development.

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

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

(4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and 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 five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

(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 Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

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