

Senate Resolution 283

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Summers of the 13th, Bearden of the 30th, Williams of the 25th and Still of the 48th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Height Restrictions Surrounding Georgia Airports;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of only three states that does not regulate the height of structures
4 surrounding its airports, leaving a significant gap in aviation safety and infrastructure; and

5 WHEREAS, tall structures at the end of a runway or within critical approach and departure
6 zones compromise aircraft operations and public safety, forcing airports to either relocate,
7 shorten, or otherwise modify runways, which are decisions that result in substantial financial
8 cost and, in many cases, could lead to the closure of smaller, rural airports; and

9 WHEREAS, the state has a vested interest in balancing the rights of private landowners with
10 the necessity of maintaining safe and operational airports, ensuring that aviation
11 infrastructure can continue to support economic growth, public safety, and connectivity
12 across Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, a comprehensive and strategic policy approach is needed to assess and
14 implement reasonable height restrictions that protect aviation operations while also
15 respecting the rights of property owners and fostering economic development; and

16 WHEREAS, study is needed to evaluate and recommend policies and possible legislative
17 actions that address the challenges posed by unregulated development near airports,
18 including:

19 (1) A comprehensive analysis of height restrictions in states with established policies in
20 order to identify best practices for adoption in Georgia;

21 (2) An assessment of the economic and operational impact of unregulated development
22 near airports, including the potential financial burden on airports forced to modify
23 infrastructure;

24 (3) Consideration of the legal implications of implementing height restriction regulations,
25 ensuring that any policy recommendations respect property rights while prioritizing
26 aviation safety;

27 (4) Engagement with key stakeholders, including airport operators, aviation industry
28 experts, economic development officials, and private property owners to gain a broad
29 perspective on this issue; and

30 (5) Development of legislative proposals or regulatory recommendations that strike a
31 balance between protecting Georgia's aviation infrastructure and preserving the interests
32 of private landowners.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
34 GEORGIA:

35 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
36 Height Restrictions Surrounding Georgia Airports.

37 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following
38 members:

39 (A) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members
40 of the committee, one of which shall be the chairperson of the Senate Transportation

41 committee. The President of the Senate shall also designate one of such members as
42 cochairperson;

43 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
44 House of Representatives as members of the committee, one of which shall be the
45 chairperson of the House Committee on Transportation. The Speaker of the House of
46 Representatives shall also designate one of such members as cochairperson;

47 (C) The commissioner of transportation, or his or her designee;

48 (D) The president of the Georgia Municipal Association, or his or her designee; and

49 (E) The president of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, or his or her
50 designee.

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

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

58 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

59 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
60 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

61 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
62 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,
63 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their
64 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for
65 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

66 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
67 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that

68 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
69 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
70 employees.

71 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
72 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
73 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
74 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives; except that
75 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
76 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
77 available to their respective agencies.

78 **(6) Report.**

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

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

86 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
87 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
88 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
89 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

90 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
91 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the
92 minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

93 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.