

Senate Resolution 323

By: Senators Echols of the 49th, Beach of the 21st, Watson of the 11th, Bearden of the 30th, Burns of the 23rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Making Georgia the No. 1 State for Tourism; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has a robust history that demonstrates the resilience and strength of a
4 diverse population, from being a cultural center for Native American tribes, the last British
5 colony on mainland North America and playing a strategic role in the American Revolution,
6 through the Civil War and Reconstruction, surviving the Great Depression, and to the Civil
7 Rights movement; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia hosts an amazing collection of local celebrations and festivals for both
9 locals and visitors to enjoy, such as the Atlanta Dogwood Festival, Oktoberfest in Helen, the
10 International Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon, and the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in
11 Savannah; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia has a collection of fantastic sports teams for fans of all sports to cheer
13 on to victory, including but not limited to the Georgia Falcons, Atlanta Braves, Atlanta
14 Hawks, Atlanta United, University of Georgia Bulldogs, and Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia has beautiful vistas and natural resources meant to be seen and savored,
17 including mountains, canyons, waterfalls, lakes, rivers, and beaches; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia is a popular tourist destination with many attractions, including historic
19 sites, engaging museums, cultural destinations, sporting events, entertainment venues, and
20 outdoor activities; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2023, Georgia travel and tourism generated a \$79.7 billion state wide
22 economic impact with more than \$5 billion collected in state and local tax revenues; and

23 WHEREAS, Atlanta is scheduled to host eight FIFA World Cup 2026 matches, and each
24 match in Atlanta is expected to generate \$4.6 million in global media exposure; and

25 WHEREAS, a study committee is needed to discover opportunities to promote and develop
26 tourism in all regions of the state, from small towns to big cities, to ensure Georgia becomes
27 the number one state for tourism.

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

29 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
30 on Making Georgia the No. 1 State for Tourism.

31 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
32 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, with one member selected from the
33 Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, one member from the Senate
34 Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, and one member from the Senate
35 Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment. The remaining two members
36 shall be selected from the Senate body based on their interest and experience in tourism.

37 The President shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the
38 committee.

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

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

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

52 (6) **Report.**

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

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

60 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
61 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
62 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
63 the Secretary of the Senate.

- 64 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
65 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
66 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.