

## House Resolution 755

By: Representatives Scoggins of the 14<sup>th</sup>, Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, Prince of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Electric Franchise Fees for Unincorporated Areas;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, substantial growth of large-load electricity customers is having an impact on  
4 unincorporated areas of this state; and

5 WHEREAS, municipalities are authorized to lease their rights-of-way to electric utilities  
6 pursuant to franchise agreements that allow municipalities to receive significant  
7 compensation from such utilities that are ultimately paid by customers located in both  
8 incorporated and unincorporated areas of this state; and

9 WHEREAS, the right of electricity suppliers to utilize county rights-of-way to reach their  
10 customers has a significant economic value that is not currently being recognized for the  
11 benefit of counties and the residents of the unincorporated areas of this state; and

12 WHEREAS, for decades, residents of the unincorporated areas of this state have ultimately  
13 paid municipal franchise fees to cities in which they do not reside as a result of such fees  
14 being included in the base rate of their power bills; and

15 WHEREAS, the unprecedented growth of large-load electricity customers necessitates a  
16 reconsideration of the assessment and allocation of franchise fees for electric services within  
17 this state; and

18 WHEREAS, the state has a compelling governmental interest in ensuring that large-load  
19 electricity customers are assessed franchise fees or other tariffs as a condition of conducting  
20 their operations in the unincorporated areas of this state.

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

22 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
23 on Electric Franchise Fees for Unincorporated Areas.

24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of:

25 (A) Seven members of the House of Representatives;

26 (B) Two county commissioners or chairpersons of a county board of commissioners;  
27 and

28 (C) Two mayors or city council members,

29 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall  
30 designate a member of the House of Representatives to serve as chairperson of the  
31 committee.

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

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

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

45 (6) **Report.**

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

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

53 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
54 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
55 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
56 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

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