

Senate Resolution 610

By: Senators Hatchett of the 50th, Brass of the 6th, Robertson of the 29th and Strickland of the 42nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Improving and Increasing Recycling; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia continues to experience population growth and economic expansion,
4 increasing demand on solid waste management systems and landfill capacity; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia has significant opportunities to strengthen recycling as an economic
6 development tool that supports manufacturing, supply chains, and jobs while conserving
7 natural resources; and

8 WHEREAS, recyclable commodities such as glass, aluminum, plastics, paper, and other
9 materials represent valuable feedstocks for Georgia based and regional manufacturers; and

10 WHEREAS, recycling challenges in this state include infrastructure limitations, inconsistent
11 collection systems, contamination of recyclable materials, and insufficient in-state end
12 markets for certain commodities; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Department of
14 Natural Resources plays a central role in solid waste planning, permitting, data collection,
15 and technical assistance related to recycling; and

16 WHEREAS, a market-driven, industry informed study is needed to identify practical
17 strategies to improve material recovery, increase recycling rates, and grow end markets for
18 recyclable commodities in this state.

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

20 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
21 on Improving and Increasing Recycling.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of eight members of the
23 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall
24 appoint an additional five nonlegislative members of the committee, emphasizing
25 industry and market expertise, and may include representatives from:

26 (A) The Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources;

27 (B) Manufacturers or end-market users of recycled glass, aluminum, plastics, or other
28 commodities;

29 (C) Beverage, consumer goods, or packaging industries;

30 (D) Material recovery facilities or recycling processors; or

31 (E) Local governments or solid waste authorities with demonstrated recycling
32 programs.

33 The President of the Senate shall designate a legislative member of the committee as
34 chairperson of the committee and may designate a vice chairperson of the committee.

35 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
36 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto, with a particular focus on
37 market viability and commodity-specific solutions and recommend any action or

38 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
39 consider, but shall not be limited to:

40 (A) The current collection, processing, and end-market capacity for recyclable
41 commodities, including glass, aluminum, plastics, paper, and other materials commonly
42 generated in this state;

43 (B) Barriers to improving material quality, reducing contamination, and increasing
44 recovery rates for specific commodities;

45 (C) Opportunities to expand or attract in-state manufacturing and end markets that
46 utilize recycled feedstocks;

47 (D) The role of private industry, manufacturers, material recovery facilities, and
48 recyclers in improving system efficiency and investment;

49 (E) The effectiveness of existing state and local recycling programs and EPD
50 administered solid waste and recycling initiatives;

51 (F) Best practices from other states and regions that have successfully improved
52 recycling outcomes through industry-led or public-private partnership models;

53 (G) Data collection, reporting, and measurement tools needed to better track recycling
54 performance by commodity;

55 (H) Infrastructure needs, including processing capacity and transportation
56 considerations, to support increased recycling state wide;

57 (I) Public education strategies focused on improving participation and reducing
58 contamination in recycling streams; and

59 (J) Any statutory, regulatory, or administrative changes necessary to support a
60 sustainable, market based recycling system in Georgia.

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

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

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

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

73 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
74 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
75 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
76 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
77 employees.

78 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
79 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
80 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
81 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of
82 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the
83 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
84 available to their respective agencies.

85 **(6) Report.**

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

- 90 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
91 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
92 of this paragraph.
- 93 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
94 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
95 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
96 the Secretary of the Senate.
- 97 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
98 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 99 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished upon the earlier of the
100 submission of its final report or on December 1, 2026.