

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment offered the following substitute to SR 610:

#### 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, tires, and  
9 other materials represent valuable feedstocks for Georgia based and regional manufacturers;  
10 and

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
24 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

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

27 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
28 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto, with a particular focus on  
29 market viability and commodity-specific solutions and recommend any action or  
30 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall  
31 consider, but shall not be limited to:

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

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

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

- 39 (D) The role of private industry, manufacturers, material recovery facilities, and  
40 recyclers in improving system efficiency and investment;
- 41 (E) The effectiveness of existing state and local recycling programs and EPD  
42 administered solid waste and recycling initiatives;
- 43 (F) Best practices from other states and regions that have successfully improved  
44 recycling outcomes through industry-led or public-private partnership models;
- 45 (G) Data collection, reporting, and measurement tools needed to better track recycling  
46 performance by commodity;
- 47 (H) Infrastructure needs, including processing capacity and transportation  
48 considerations, to support increased recycling state wide;
- 49 (I) Public education strategies focused on improving participation and reducing  
50 contamination in recycling streams; and
- 51 (J) Any statutory, regulatory, or administrative changes necessary to support a  
52 sustainable, market based recycling system in Georgia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

77 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

89 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary  
90 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

91 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished upon the earlier of the  
92 submission of its final report or on December 1, 2026.