

Senate Resolution 800

By: Senators Goodman of the 8th, Watson of the 11th, Echols of the 49th, Sims of the 12th,
Anderson of the 24th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Generational Sustainability of Family Farms; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the agricultural industry is the leading driver of this state's economy and the
4 family farm is central to the identity of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, the agricultural industry contributes \$100.4 billion to this state's economy and
6 contributes 370,400 jobs to the workforce, yet the United States' agricultural trade deficit is
7 projected to exceed \$40 billion this year; and

8 WHEREAS, despite consumers facing rising food prices, the farmer's share of every dollar
9 spent by consumers continues to get smaller; and

10 WHEREAS, farm families have faced unprecedented challenges over the last few years
11 including natural disasters, global trade wars, disease outbreaks, corporate consolidation, and
12 a declining workforce, leading to record high input costs and record low commodity prices;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the insurmountable economic challenges facing family farms have caused a
15 rapid increase in suicides and mental illnesses within the farm community; and

16 WHEREAS, the aforementioned challenges are causing American consumers to be more
17 reliant on imported food and fiber, leading to the outsourcing of food production to trading
18 partners overseas; and

19 WHEREAS, a study is needed to evaluate the challenges family farms are facing and to
20 explore policies and investments the General Assembly can pursue to support existing
21 markets, develop new and innovative domestic markets, decrease the cost of inputs,
22 adequately prepare the next generation of farmers, and address systemic challenges
23 contributing to the declining farm economy.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 GEORGIA:

26 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
27 the Generational Sustainability of Family Farms.

28 (2) **Members and officers.**

29 (A) The committee shall be composed of 11 members.

30 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate as members
31 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

32 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the
33 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
34 members as cochairperson.

35 (D) The committee shall include the Commissioner of Agriculture as an additional
36 member.

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

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

44 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

47 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
48 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,
49 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as
50 members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in
51 their capacities as state officials or employees.

52 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
53 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
54 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
55 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

56 (6) **Report.**

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

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

64 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
65 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

66 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
67 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

71 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2026.