

House Resolution 1665

By: Representatives Townsend of the 179th, Stephens of the 164th, and Smith of the 70th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Environmental Protection Division Permit and
2 Variance Procedures and Rights to Review; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources
4 (EPD) is charged with the protection of this state's air, land, and water resources; and

5 WHEREAS, as part of its duties, the EPD regulates public and private facilities in the areas
6 of air quality, water quality, hazardous waste, water supply, solid waste, surface mining,
7 underground storage tanks, and other similar activities, and issues and enforces state permits
8 and variances in such areas; and

9 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the EPD's procedures relating to granting,
10 denying, revoking, or amending permits or variances, as well as any rights to administrative
11 or judicial review by aggrieved or adversely affected parties, to evaluate whether any action
12 by the state is warranted to ensure efficient and economical operations or to better serve the
13 public welfare.

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

15 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
16 on Environmental Protection Division Permit and Variance Procedures and Rights to
17 Review.

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

19 (A) The committee shall be composed of seven members of the House of
20 Representatives as follows:

21 (i) The chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary of the House Committee on
22 Natural Resources and Environment;

23 (ii) The chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary of the House Committee on
24 Economic Development and Tourism; and

25 (iii) One member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of
26 the House of Representatives.

27 (B) The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the
28 committee.

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

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

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

37 (A) Members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code
38 Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

39 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
40 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds

41 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
42 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

43 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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