

Senate Resolution 610

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

ADOPTED SENATE

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.