

House Resolution 1000

By: Representatives Dukes of the 154th, Lewis-Ward of the 109th, Thomas of the 65th, Holly of the 111th, and McLaurin of the 51st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee for Promotion and Assistance of Small Farmers; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, agriculture contributes approximately \$73.3 billion annually to Georgia's
4 economy, according to the UGA Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development; and

5 WHEREAS, one in seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry, or related fields; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2012, there were 42,257 farms in Georgia encompassing 9,620,836 acres of
7 land, 88 percent of which are considered to be small businesses in terms of annual sales; and

8 WHEREAS, the number of small and medium sized farms has and continues to decline in
9 Georgia and across the country, as a result of multiple pressure points which
10 disproportionately affect these farmers, despite their importance to the health of the Georgia
11 economy.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 GEORGIA:

14 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee for
15 Promotion and Assistance of Small Farmers.

16 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of ten members as
17 follows:

18 (A) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the
19 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
20 members as cochairperson; and

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

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

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

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

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

33 (B) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
34 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
35 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
36 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate; except that
37 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
38 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
39 available to their respective agencies.

40 (6) **Report.**

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

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

48 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
49 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
50 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
51 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

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

55 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.