

House Resolution 1055

By: Representatives Gilliard of the 162nd, Petrea of the 166th, Stephens of the 165th, Gordon of the 163rd, and Stephens of the 164th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on a Savannah to Atlanta Railway; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, The Nancy Hanks was a popular railway passenger train in Georgia running
4 between Atlanta and Savannah named after a race horse that was named after Abraham
5 Lincoln's mother; and

6 WHEREAS, "The Nancy," as it was affectionately known, was an all-coach, reserved-seat
7 train with grill lounge service that last ran on April 30, 1971, the day before Amtrak came
8 into being, and was highly successful in its day; and

9 WHEREAS, Savannah is Georgia's "first city" and attracts millions of visitors to its
10 cobblestone streets, parks, and notable historic buildings that make up one of the largest
11 National Historic Landmark Districts in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, traffic congestion in metropolitan Atlanta is among the worst in the nation, and
13 a lack of transit options and methods for improving travel times throughout the state put
14 Georgia at an economic and business recruiting disadvantage to neighboring states; and

15 WHEREAS, if Atlanta and Savannah were connected by a modern-day, high-speed train
16 traveling an average of 200 miles per hour, the coast would be within a 75-minute ride from
17 Atlanta and such a train could change the complexion of Georgia from having two different
18 economies to being a state with a transportation infrastructure that could help reinforce the
19 notion of Georgia becoming "the logistics hub of the Western hemisphere" in the 21st
20 Century; and

21 WHEREAS, providing a railway option between Savannah and Atlanta, stopping in Dublin
22 and Macon along the way, would enhance mobility, help improve air quality, save energy,

23 and reduce congestion in metropolitan Atlanta and increase tourism and economic
24 development throughout the state; and

25 WHEREAS, study is needed as to the possibility, feasibility, and viability of a railway
26 connecting Savannah and Atlanta.

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

28 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
29 on a Savannah to Atlanta Railway.

30 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
31 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
32 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
33 of the committee.

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

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

41 (5) **Allowances and funding.** Members of the committee who are members of the
42 General Assembly shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of
43 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution
44 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless
45 additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
46 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

47 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

57 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
58 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

62 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.