

The House Committee on Small Business Development offers the following substitute to HR 11:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Innovative Ways to Maximize Global Talent in
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is a welcoming state where hardworking people of all origins and
4 walks of life can live, work, and thrive; and

5 WHEREAS, one in ten Georgians is foreign-born, totaling more than one million, and these
6 Georgians contribute to the state's unique culture and diversity; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia has been named the best state in the nation in which to conduct
8 business for seven years in a row; and the role of foreign-born Georgians in this business
9 success is undeniable; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia values the determination and entrepreneurial spirit of its small
11 businesses, and foreign-born Georgians are a driving force in the small business community,
12 owning nearly one-third of all main street businesses, despite comprising only one-tenth of
13 the state's population; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2018 alone, Georgia's foreign-born entrepreneurs provided jobs for more than
15 200,000 Georgians and produced more than \$33 billion in sales revenues; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia's work force is also increasingly global, and Georgia business leaders
17 have forged a powerful partnership with the state's foreign-born communities to recruit
18 skilled, talented, and motivated workers; and

19 WHEREAS, one in seven Georgia workers is foreign-born, and 84 percent of foreign-born
20 Georgians are of working age; and

21 WHEREAS, foreign-born workers play a vital role in the state's core industries, including
22 agriculture, forestry, poultry processing, manufacturing, construction, and hospitality; and

23 WHEREAS, global talent is also driving growth in Georgia's high-producing STEM (science,
24 technology, engineering and math) industries, where 22 percent of workers are foreign-born;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, global talent is particularly important to Georgia's health care system. Nearly
27 one-fifth of all Georgia doctors and health aides are foreign-born, and the state is in great
28 need of more qualified medical professionals to address work force shortages, particularly
29 in the rural areas; and

30 WHEREAS, hardworking foreign-born Georgians across all sectors paid nearly \$10 billion
31 in federal, state, and local taxes and held more than \$26 billion in spending power in 2018;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians have never been more essential to the state than during
34 the current COVID-19 pandemic, serving in disproportionate numbers in frontline jobs in
35 hospitals and assisted living facilities, farms and food processing plants, warehouses and
36 delivery services, and more; and

37 WHEREAS, the pandemic has negatively impacted Georgia's economy, and it is in the state's
38 interest to find innovative ways to spark economic growth and create a sustainable recovery;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, there is tremendous untapped potential in the state's growing global work force;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, industries across the state are rapidly adapting to changes in technology and an
43 evolving economy, and strategic support is needed to ensure Georgia has a skilled work force
44 to support current and future needs; and

45 WHEREAS, Georgia can maximize global talent and provide greater prosperity for all
46 Georgians by identifying and removing barriers to full economic participation that no longer
47 serve the state.

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

49 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
50 on Innovative Ways to Maximize Global Talent in Georgia.

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

54 of the committee. The committee shall include one member of the business community
55 and one member from the foreign-born community with relevant experience or expertise.

56 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
57 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
58 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. In particular, the
59 committee shall:

60 (A) Review best practices for maximizing global talent, with a focus on education,
61 training, occupational licensing, and small business development.

62 (B) Assess the greatest areas of need for Georgia business and identify solutions to
63 improve access to global talent.

64 (C) Solicit input from governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders across the
65 state, including members of Georgia's business community and its foreign-born
66 communities.

67 (D) Develop specific recommendations to strengthen Georgia's economy by enabling
68 Georgia's foreign-born communities to contribute to the economy to the fullest extent
69 possible.

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

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

75 (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall
76 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
77 Georgia Annotated.

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

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

82 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

97 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2021.