

House Resolution 1224

By: Representatives Gonzalez of the 117th, McClain of the 100th, Park of the 101st, Drenner of the 85th, Wallace of the 119th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Establishment of a Living Wage; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the minimum hourly wage for employees covered by the federal Fair Labor
4 Standards Act is currently \$7.25, and for those employees who are not covered under such
5 Act, the minimum hourly wage is \$5.15 in the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, a full-time employee earning the federal minimum wage earns only \$15,080.00
7 per year, which falls below the federal poverty level for a family of two; and

8 WHEREAS, minimum wage rates are not indexed for inflation, leading to a continuing loss
9 of minimum wage earners' already limited purchasing power; and

10 WHEREAS, nearly one out of every five individuals in Georgia lives in poverty, and the
11 poverty rate among Georgians is higher in rural areas; and

12 WHEREAS, members of historically marginalized communities, including African
13 Americans and Hispanics, are disproportionately impacted by poverty in Georgia, and
14 longstanding racial and gender wage gaps have led to significant wage inequality in this
15 state; and

16 WHEREAS, a living wage is an hourly rate of pay designed to provide the amount of income
17 adjusted for inflation necessary for a worker to maintain a reasonable standard of living; and

18 WHEREAS, establishing a living wage in the State of Georgia is a necessary step to reduce
19 the poverty rate and create a more equitable income distribution for historically
20 disadvantaged groups in Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, a living wage would also reduce racial and gender bias in employment, promote
22 upward mobility for employees and their families, lead to continued growth in the state's
23 economy, and sustain and even improve Georgia's reputation as the number one place to do
24 business; and

25 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the best, most practical method to use in
26 implementing a living wage in this state.

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 the Establishment of a Living Wage.

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.