

The House Committee on Regulated Industries offers the following substitute to HR 1599:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, following the repeal of Prohibition, the states were given responsibility for the
4 regulation of alcoholic beverages; and

5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia elected a license model of alcohol distribution allowing
6 private businesses to operate as manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers under a framework
7 of "tied-house" laws designed to ensure the separation of the retail segment from alcohol
8 suppliers and distributors under a control structure known as the "three-tier" system; and

9 WHEREAS, as a result, the manufacture, sale, and possession of alcohol in Georgia is
10 subject to a myriad of complex laws and rules and regulations; and

11 WHEREAS, the malt beverage, wine, and distilled spirits industry has changed substantially
12 since the three-tier laws were enacted; and

13 WHEREAS, certain provisions of Title 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
14 "Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code," have undergone many revisions over years while others
15 have not been revised in decades; and

16 WHEREAS, consequently, in many places there are undefined terms, outdated terminology,
17 obsolete provisions, inconsistent references, and other matters in need of review; and

18 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of Title 3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated
19 and other provisions relating to alcoholic beverages is necessary in order to study and
20 identify any reforms necessary to provide for and maintain an effective and efficient Code
21 that will promote public safety, provide clear guidance to those in the industry, and afford
22 those who regulate and enforce the Code the necessary tools to effectively do so; and

23 WHEREAS, it is time that a careful study be conducted of the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage
24 Code regarding what changes are needed to address these issues.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 there is created the House Study Committee on the Georgia Alcoholic Beverage Code to be
27 composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
28 of the House of Representatives. Such members shall include the Chairperson of the House
29 Committee on Regulated Industries and at least two other members of the House Committee
30 on Regulated Industries. The chairperson of the House Committee on Regulated Industries
31 shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the
32 chairperson.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a comprehensive study
34 and review of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto
35 and shall include in its final report any recommendations for changes to the Georgia
36 Alcoholic Beverage Code. The committee may conduct its meetings at such places and at
37 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
38 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
39 resolution. The committee is authorized to appoint subcommittees if the appointment of such
40 subcommittees would allow a more expeditious and effective study of the issues. The
41 legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative
42 members of interim legislative committees from the funds appropriated to the House of
43 Representatives but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days
44 are authorized. The committee is directed to make a report of its findings and
45 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, not later than
46 December 1, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2014.