

House Resolution 1699

By: Representative Fleming of the 121<sup>st</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Selection of Georgia's Future Voting System for  
2 Secure, Accessible, and Fair Elections; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia currently deploys approximately 27,000 Direct Recording  
4 Electronic (DRE) voting devices, along with ancillary election technology, in a uniform  
5 election system; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Secretary of State serves as the state's chief elections official and  
7 chairperson of the bipartisan State Election Board, which oversees enforcement of federal  
8 and state election laws and rules; and

9 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia's current voting equipment, which was purchased with state  
10 appropriations in 2002 and deployed in all 159 counties, has earned voters' confidence, but  
11 the state must plan for its replacement; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has long prioritized efforts to ensure the integrity of the  
13 ballot box, and new technologies in today's competitive marketplace allow the state to safely  
14 proceed with replacement of the current voting system following research of alternative  
15 options; and

16 WHEREAS, the Georgia Secretary of State, in consultation with the Department of  
17 Administrative Services, is authorized to initiate the procurement process for replacement  
18 of Georgia's current voting equipment technology and ancillary election devices and solicit  
19 information from voting technology vendors regarding specifications, functionality, security,  
20 implementation, and cost of each respective system; and

21 WHEREAS, implementation of a new voting system can occur as early as the 2019 election  
22 cycle so long as adequate time and resources exist to complete a full decommission of the

23 current voting system, training for elections officials, public awareness campaigns, and  
24 successful implementation of the replacement voting system; and

25 WHEREAS, a comprehensive, inclusive, and systematic study of Georgia's voting system  
26 is necessary and appropriate as the selection process requires legislative and regulatory  
27 action, including budgetary appropriations, for implementation; and

28 WHEREAS, for the purposes of determining an appropriate plan of action and  
29 recommendations for the State of Georgia, it would be beneficial to comprehensively review  
30 the strengths and weaknesses of available election and voting technology with all  
31 stakeholders.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
33 GEORGIA:

34 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on  
35 Selection of Georgia's Future Voting System for Secure, Accessible, and Fair Elections.

36 (2) **Members and officers.**

37 (A) The committee shall be composed of 13 members.

38 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the  
39 House of Representatives as members of the committee, at least one of whom shall be  
40 a member of the minority caucus, and shall designate one of such members as  
41 co-chairperson.

42 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members  
43 of the committee, at least one of whom shall be a member of the minority caucus, and  
44 shall designate one of such members as co-chairperson.

45 (D) The Governor shall appoint four members with one member representing the  
46 Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and one member representing the  
47 Department of Administrative Services.

48 (E) The Secretary of State, or his or her designee, shall serve as a member ex officio.

49 (3) **Powers and duties.** Beginning July 1, 2018, the committee shall undertake a study  
50 of the conditions and needs of Georgia's voting electorate, local elections officials, and  
51 related stakeholders and, in consultation with the Secretary of State, recommend any  
52 action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. In particular,  
53 and without limiting the foregoing, the committee shall undertake to examine the  
54 components of Georgia's voting system and related policy areas that it may deem  
55 necessary and appropriate, including, but not limited to, replacement and decommission  
56 of the current voting system, educational training for local officials and members of the

57 voting public, and selection of the replacement voting system in the State of Georgia.  
58 Such departments and agencies of the state involved with the appropriation, procurement,  
59 selection, and decommission process shall provide, upon request of the committee,  
60 services, information, and other support for the committee and its work.

61 (4) **Meetings.** The co-chairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The  
62 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem  
63 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform  
64 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

68 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
69 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,  
70 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their  
71 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for  
72 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

73 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
74 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
75 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
76 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
77 employees.

78 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received  
79 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are  
80 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
81 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate; except that funds  
82 for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members,  
83 and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to  
84 their respective agencies.

85 (6) **Report.**

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

90 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
91 proposed legislation, the co-chairpersons shall file the report, subject to  
92 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

- 93 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
94 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
95 A report so approved shall be signed by the co-chairpersons of the committee and filed  
96 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.
- 97 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the co-chairpersons may file with the Clerk  
98 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes  
99 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 100 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on January 1, 2019.