

House Resolution 214

By: Representatives Watson of the 172nd, Ralston of the 7th, England of the 116th, Powell of the 171st, Bentley of the 139th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Reauthorizing the House Rural Development Council; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has experienced tremendous job growth since 2010 with
3 more than 750,000 new jobs added in the private sector during that period of time; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia's economic successes during this time have resulted from a favorable
5 tax structure, a favorable regulatory environment, and aggressive economic development
6 initiatives; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Georgia has been declared by several industry publications to be the best state
8 in the nation for business, including *Site Selection Magazine* for the previous six years; and
- 9 WHEREAS, this economic success has not extended into all of Georgia's rural areas to a
10 desired level; and
- 11 WHEREAS, as a result, Georgia's rural areas are faced with challenges distinct from other
12 areas of this state, which can include one or more of the following: loss of population, a
13 deficiency in access to health care, poor infrastructure, diminished quality of educational
14 opportunity, scarcity of employment opportunities, and overall lack of economic growth; and
- 15 WHEREAS, a thorough, intensive, and systematic study of the existing issues in Georgia's
16 rural areas is necessary and appropriate; and
- 17 WHEREAS, it is the intention of the House of Representatives that the overall objective of
18 such study should be to identify policies and ideas to enhance economic opportunity across
19 the entire state, particularly in rural areas.

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

21 (1) **Reauthorization of House council.** There is reauthorized the House Rural
22 Development Council.

23 (2) **Members and officers.** The council shall be composed of 15 members of the House
24 of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
25 Speaker shall designate two members of the council as cochairpersons of the council and
26 may appoint from among the other members of the council such other officers as he may
27 deem appropriate.

28 (3) **Powers and duties.** Beginning April 1, 2019, the council shall undertake a study of
29 the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and
30 recommend any action or legislation which the council deems necessary or appropriate.
31 In particular, and without limiting the foregoing, the council shall undertake to examine
32 the components of economic development and related policy areas it may deem necessary
33 and appropriate, including, but not limited to, education, infrastructure, access to health
34 care, and economic growth incentives. All departments and agencies of the state are
35 expected to provide, upon request of the council, services, information, and other support
36 for the council and its work.

37 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the council. The council
38 shall meet on a regular basis at different locations within the state, particularly in rural
39 areas of Georgia, to interact with and hear from local government officials, educational
40 leaders, health care providers, business leaders, civic groups, and all other citizens who
41 desire to offer input, so as to enable the council to exercise fully and effectively its
42 powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

46 (B) Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from
47 funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

48 (6) **Report.**

49 (A) The cochairpersons shall file an initial report of findings and recommendations,
50 including any suggestions for proposed legislation, not later than December 31, 2019,
51 subject to subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

52 (B) The cochairpersons shall file a second report of findings and recommendations,
53 including any suggestions for proposed legislation, prior to the date of abolishment
54 specified in this resolution, subject to subparagraph (C) 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 council.

- 57 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the council and filed with
58 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.
- 59 (7) **Abolishment.** The council shall stand abolished on December 31, 2020.