

House Resolution 488

By: Representatives Meeks of the 178th, Jasperse of the 11th, Corbett of the 174th, Houston of the 170th, and Jackson of the 128th

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 in the
3 private sector; 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*; 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, aging infrastructure, diminished quality of educational

14 opportunities, limited employment opportunities, inconsistent economic development
15 opportunities, and lack of widespread economic growth; and

16 WHEREAS, a continuation of a thorough, intensive, and systematic study of the existing
17 issues in Georgia's rural areas is necessary and appropriate; and

18 WHEREAS, it is the intention of the House of Representatives that the overall objective of
19 such study should be to identify policies and ideas to enhance economic opportunities across
20 the entire state, particularly in rural areas.

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

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

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

29 (3) **Powers and duties.** Beginning May 1, 2023, the council shall undertake a study of
30 the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and
31 recommend any action or legislation which the council deems necessary or appropriate.
32 In particular, and without limiting the foregoing, the council shall undertake to examine
33 the components of economic development and related policy areas it may deem necessary
34 and appropriate, including, but not limited to, education, infrastructure, access to health
35 care, and economic growth incentives. All departments and agencies of the state are
36 expected to provide, upon request of the council, services, information, and other support
37 for the council and its work.

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

44 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the council shall receive the
45 allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
46 Annotated. 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, 2023,
51 subject to subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

52 (B) The cochairpersons shall file a second and final report of findings and
53 recommendations, including any suggestions for proposed legislation, on or before the
54 dissolution of the council on December 31, 2024, as specified in this resolution, subject
55 to subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

56 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
57 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the council.
58 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the council and filed with
59 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

60 (7) **Abolishment.** The council shall stand abolished on December 31, 2024.