

The House Committee on Small Business Development offers the following substitute to HR 579:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Georgia Commission on Sustainability and Economic Opportunity; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the business and workforce climates in the State of Georgia and throughout the
4 nation are rapidly changing; and

5 WHEREAS, this state needs to adapt to the market forces controlling sustainability in order
6 remain the "#1 State for Business"; and

7 WHEREAS, a critical part of advancing the modern workforce is analyzing the importance
8 of employee wellness and environmental responsibility; and

9 WHEREAS, a study is needed to determine the best course of action with regard to educating
10 the business community on the advantages of, and providing businesses with incentives for
11 prioritizing employee wellness, environmental building practices, agriculture, transportation,
12 and manufacturing; and

13 WHEREAS, it is important that such a study evaluate and recommend available
14 organizations, certifications, and resources that will enable Georgia businesses to attract a
15 modern workforce.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

17 (1) **Creation of joint commission.** There is created the Georgia Commission on
18 Sustainability and Economic Opportunity.

19 (2) **Members and officers.** The commission shall consist of the following members:

20 (A) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives;

22 (B) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

23 (C) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who
24 represent entities that provide sustainability and employee wellness certifications, have
25 building and consulting experience utilizing sustainability and employee wellness
26 certifications or, as part of their employment at or ownership of a business entity, have
27 undertaken a project that provides sustainability and employee wellness;

28 (D) Two members of appointed by the President of the Senate, who represent entities
29 that provide sustainability and employee wellness certifications, have building and
30 consulting experience utilizing sustainability and employee wellness certifications or,
31 as part of their employment at or ownership of a business entity, have undertaken a
32 project that provides sustainability and employee wellness;

33 (E) One member appointed by the Governor, who represents one or more entities that
34 provide sustainability and employee wellness certifications, has building and consulting
35 experience utilizing sustainability and employee wellness certifications or, as part of
36 his or her employment at or ownership of a business entity, has undertaken a project
37 that provides sustainability and employee wellness;

38 (F) The executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association or his or her designee;

39 (G) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia or his
40 or her designee;

41 (H) The executive director or chairperson of the Georgia Economic Developers
42 Association;

43 (I) The president or chairperson of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce or his or her
44 designee;

45 (J) The president or chairperson of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce or his or
46 her designee; and

47 (K) The commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development or his
48 or her designee.

49 The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each
50 select a member to serve as cochairpersons of the commission.

51 (3) **Powers and duties.** The commission shall undertake a study of the conditions,
52 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any
53 action or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate.

54 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the commission. The
55 commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
56 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform
57 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

61 (B) Members of the commission who are state officials, other than legislative
62 members, or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
63 commission, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
64 performance of their duties as members of the commission in the same manner as they
65 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

66 (C) Members of the commission who are not legislators, state officials, or state
67 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
68 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
69 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
70 employees.

71 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
72 by any member of the commission for more than five days unless additional days are
73 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
74 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives; except that
75 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
76 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
77 available to their respective agencies.

78 **(6) Report.**

79 (A) In the event the commission adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
80 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
81 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
82 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

83 (B) In the event the commission adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
84 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
85 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

86 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of the
87 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the
88 commission. A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the
89 commission and filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of
90 Representatives.

- 91 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
92 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives a copy of the
93 minutes of the meetings of the commission in lieu thereof.
- 94 (7) **Abolishment.** The commission shall stand abolished on December 31, 2022.