

House Resolution 580

By: Representatives Neal of the 74th and Kendrick of the 93rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Feasibility of Adopting EMPOWRD For Use
2 By the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, EMPOWRD is a civic engagement platform designed to connect people with
4 leaders and organizations, unifying them to support and lobby for great causes; and

5 WHEREAS, the platform eliminates complex barriers to obtaining information and finding
6 activities in the civic process, enabling users to connect with causes that are important to
7 them, their elected representatives, advocates, and organizations; and

8 WHEREAS, the app would give elected leaders the opportunity to connect directly with
9 constituents within their district and learn more about what causes and issues are important
10 to them via their unique civic profiles; and

11 WHEREAS, civic and cause-based organizations would have the opportunity to connect with
12 their communities and increase the number of volunteers and donors; and

13 WHEREAS, the app could further be used on election day to send important precinct
14 modifications and polling place extension notifications directly to constituents in specific
15 jurisdictions; and

16 WHEREAS, prior to election day and early voting periods, election officials could send
17 important notifications about changes to specific jurisdictions and prompt voters to check
18 their voting status through the app; and

19 WHEREAS, voters could also use the app to identify absentee ballot drop-off locations and
20 receive directions to their voting locations; and

21 WHEREAS, with additional resources, EMPOWRD could provide the State of Georgia with
22 total data coverage of election and ballot information for all Georgians, as well as real-time
23 updates on wait times at voting locations across Georgia.

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

25 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
26 on the Feasibility of Adopting EMPOWRD For Use By the State of Georgia.

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

28 (A) The committee shall be composed of ten members.

29 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint eight members of the
30 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
31 members as chairperson. The Speaker shall also appoint two nonlegislative members
32 from the elections division of the office of the Secretary of State.

33 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall investigate and study the conditions, needs,
34 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
35 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

36 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
37 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
38 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
39 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

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

48 (C) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
49 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
50 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
51 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the
52 reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and
53 state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their
54 respective agencies.

55 (6) **Report.**

56 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
57 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
58 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
59 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

60 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
61 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
62 of this paragraph.

63 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
64 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
65 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
66 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

67 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
68 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
69 thereof.

70 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.