

House Resolution 629

By: Representatives Hatchett of the 150th, Harrell of the 106th, and Setzler of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Utilization and Modernization of the State
2 Capitol and Other Buildings; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Capitol is one of only 43 National Historic Landmarks in
4 Georgia, and as the seat of this state's government since 1889, the capitol has been the focus
5 of policy and lawmaking during this state's greatest periods of growth as well as the backdrop
6 against which countless colorful events in this state's history have occurred; and

7 WHEREAS, with few alterations to its exterior since its completion, the Georgia State
8 Capitol is of very high significance architecturally, historically, politically, and socially as
9 the symbolic anchor of Georgia politics since Reconstruction; and

10 WHEREAS, the capitol and the neighboring Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building
11 (CLOB) house the two chambers of the General Assembly, House and Senate offices, the
12 Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and legislative support
13 staff; Georgia's Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of State's Office; the joint
14 offices consisting of the Office of Legislative Counsel, the Fiscal Office, Information
15 Technology, and the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office; and the State
16 Museum of Science and Industry; and

17 WHEREAS, the capitol, CLOB, parking facilities, and surrounding grounds are used by
18 visitors, Georgia General Assembly members, staff, and others all year round; and

19 WHEREAS, it is important that these buildings, facilities, and grounds are utilized to their
20 fullest extent in order to enhance the experience of those who visit and work here; and

21 WHEREAS, placing certain amenities and embracing the use of current technologies
22 throughout the capitol building and CLOB would provide conveniences that currently do not
23 exist for staff and those who frequent the area; and

24 WHEREAS, parking, accessibility, and security are important factors that should be
25 examined to ensure that they are being adequately provided; and

26 WHEREAS, it would serve to promote the history and economy of this state if there were
27 opportunities for visitors to purchase memorabilia and other keepsakes of their visit to this
28 most recognizable feature of the Atlanta skyline that has long been a visual symbol of the
29 State of Georgia to her citizens; and

30 WHEREAS, the Governor's Mansion, a three-floor, 30 room, Greek Revival style home built
31 in 1967, stands on approximately 18 acres in northeast Atlanta, was designed by Georgia
32 architect Thomas Bradbury, and officially opened on January 1, 1968; and

33 WHEREAS, all of the rooms on the first floor of the Governor's Mansion are used for official
34 entertaining and the second floor contains the Governor's private living quarters; and

35 WHEREAS, the Governor's Mansion is open to the public for tours; and

36 WHEREAS, it is important to periodically evaluate whether this historical home may be in
37 need of renovations; and

38 WHEREAS, it is important that the Georgia State Capitol, CLOB, parking facilities, and
39 surrounding grounds, along with the Governor's Mansion, be evaluated in order to determine
40 whether they are being used efficiently and effectively in a manner which utilizes and
41 maximizes to the fullest extent possible the space and available technologies in order to
42 better serve the members of the public who visit such buildings and better enable those who
43 work in such buildings in service of the public to do so.

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

45 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
46 on the Utilization and Modernization of the State Capitol and Other Buildings.

47 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
48 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
49 Representatives, at least one of whom shall be a member of the minority party. The
50 Speaker shall also appoint an additional three nonlegislative members of the committee
51 who have knowledge and expertise in construction or economic development. The
52 Speaker shall designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the
53 committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

81 (6) **Report.**

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

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

89 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
90 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

91 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
92 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

96 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.