

House Resolution 667

By: Representatives Mainor of the 56th, Lopez of the 86th, Lim of the 99th, Williams of the 37th, and Mitchell of the 88th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on a State Digitization Act; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs reports that Georgia throws
3 away 1.9 million tons of paper a year, and it has been shown that recycling contributes to
4 energy conservation; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the U.S. forest products industry is one of the largest manufacturing industries
6 in America, and especially in Georgia, and includes loggers, wood products facilities, pulp
7 and paper mills, paper-based packaging plants, and paper mills that recycle paper materials
8 to make new products we use every day; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) is assisting in
10 championing Georgia's paper recovery for recycling by advanced, sustainable U.S. pulp,
11 paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturing solutions; and
- 12 WHEREAS, recycling and digitizing state paper output does not harm Georgia's paper
13 industry, rather, it prepares paper manufacturing plants to think with a transformative vision
14 of its production as the fourth industrial revolution increases commerce with digitization
15 efforts; and

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16 WHEREAS, as an example, every year, the University of Georgia sends approximately ten
17 million pounds of materials to the landfill; and

18 WHEREAS, the cost of construction has risen in Georgia and its timber supply can increase
19 Georgia's economic development needs by reducing wasteful paper consumption; and

20 WHEREAS, each year the Georgia General Assembly uses a significant amount of paper that
21 is thrown away for waste instead of using purposeful and intent-driven recycling solutions;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, it is important for Georgia to understand the economic impact of not recycling
24 paper, as well as excessive paper consumption; and

25 WHEREAS, Georgia can be a leader in environmental standards by supporting new
26 industries from timber as paper mills face rising energy costs; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia's landfill capacity is decreasing and paper products represent the largest
28 category of what Georgians are throwing away; and

29 WHEREAS, using handheld devices or electronic tablets to look at legislation with the
30 ability to make notes with a digital pen for every state representative is more cost-effective
31 than the amount of paper used each year; and

32 WHEREAS, Florida statute 403.714 reads that each state agency, the judicial branch of state
33 government, and the state university shall, "establish a program in cooperation with the
34 Department of Management Services for the collection of all recyclable materials generated

35 in state offices and institutions throughout the state, including, at a minimum, aluminum,
36 high-grade office paper, and corrugated cardboard"; and

37 WHEREAS, South Carolina created the South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management
38 Act, finding the costs of solid waste management will increase significantly due to decreased
39 landfill capacity and more stringent federal requirements for solid waste management
40 facilities, and that more stringent federal and state requirements may also force a number of
41 existing solid waste landfills to close; and

42 WHEREAS, Alabama initiated a state-wide waste reduction and recycling program.

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

44 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
45 on a State Digitization Act.

46 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
47 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
48 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
49 of the committee.

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

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

57 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
58 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia

59 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
60 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
61 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
62 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

63 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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