

Senate Resolution 221

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Williams of the 25th, Beach of the 21st, Summers of the 13th, Jones II of the 22nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Run-off Elections; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has seen increased scrutiny for its number of runoffs; and
- 3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is one of three states with the option of holding general
4 election runoffs; and
- 5 WHEREAS, it is important to analyze the cost of runoffs in all state-wide, state legislative,
6 and local races; and
- 7 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the best course of action with regard to runoffs;
8 and
- 9 WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasizes alternate options for elections
10 to elect the best candidate, maximize voter participation, increase civility in elections, and
11 save taxpayer dollars.
- 12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

13 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
14 Run-off Elections.

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

16 (A) The committee shall be composed of nine members, including the Secretary of State
17 or his designee.

18 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate, which shall
19 include the chairperson of the Senate Ethics Committee, and shall designate one such
20 member as the cochairperson of the committee.

21 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
22 House of Representatives, which shall include the chairperson of the House
23 Governmental Affairs committee, and shall designate one such member as cochairperson
24 of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51 **(6) Report.**

52 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
53 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
54 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
55 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

56 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
57 proposed legislation, the cochaIRS shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C) of this
58 paragraph.

59 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
60 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
61 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochaIRS of the committee and filed with the
62 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

63 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Secretary
64 of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the
65 meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

66 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.