

Senate Resolution 275

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th and Dolezal of the 27th

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

1 Creating the Joint Innovation and Emerging Technologies Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's technology industry and its culture of innovation are key components
4 in the continued financial growth of businesses across the state and a vital link in Georgia's
5 economy; and

6 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is committed to fostering the development and success of
7 technology sectors and their ability to create, expand, and sustain leading technological
8 innovations that positively impact the economy and our quality of life; and

9 WHEREAS, all executive departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and other divisions
10 of the executive branch of state government shall fully cooperate with the committee, and
11 any nonprofit entities designated by the committee that promote and support technology
12 initiatives may assist the committee in the performance of its duties and may provide staff
13 assistance and any other assistance as requested; and

14 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the state identify policies to encourage, facilitate, and
15 promote emerging technologies that foster innovation and growth throughout the state.

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

18 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Innovation and
19 Emerging Technologies Study Committee.

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

21 (A) The committee shall be composed of 14 members as follows.

22 (i) Two members of the Senate Science and Technology Committee and one member
23 of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee appointed by the
24 President of the Senate;

- 25 (ii) One member of the House Committee on Science and Technology and one
 26 member of the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism appointed
 27 by the Speaker of the House;
- 28 (iii) Three individuals from the private sector with a background in science and
 29 technology, with one such member each being appointed by the Governor, the
 30 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 31 (iv) The commissioner of economic development or his or her designee;
- 32 (v) The Georgia Technology Authority Chief Information Officer or his or her
 33 designee;
- 34 (vi) The State School Superintendent or his or her designee;
- 35 (vii) The chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
 36 or his or her designee;
- 37 (viii) The chairperson of the Technical College System of Georgia or his or her
 38 designee; and
- 39 (ix) The president and CEO of the Technology Association of Georgia.
- 40 (B) The President of the Senate shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.
- 41 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one of such members
 42 as cochairperson.
- 43 (D) The committee may establish various subcommittees with subject matter expertise
 44 to advise the committee on specific matters, which shall be chaired by a member of the
 45 study committee. Members of the subcommittees must be experts from Georgia's
 46 Innovation Ecosystem.
- 47 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
 48 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
 49 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. In particular, the
 50 committee shall:
- 51 (A) Inventory Georgia's existing assets in innovation and emerging technologies to
 52 determine current strengths and capabilities;
- 53 (B) Conduct review of state and national policies to discern best practices and lessons
 54 learned with regard to public policy that encourages advancement of innovation and
 55 emerging technologies;
- 56 (C) Hold meetings around the state to solicit input from stakeholders, with a specific
 57 interest in identifying barriers to growth and progress; and
- 58 (D) Develop specific recommendations with regard to the scope and content of a
 59 strategic plan for innovation in Georgia. Such recommendations shall also stipulate
 60 exclusions from such a plan.

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

65 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

68 (B) Members of the committee who are not legislators shall serve without
69 compensation.

70 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
71 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
72 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
73 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

74 (6) **Report.**

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

79 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
80 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to subparagraph
81 (C) of this paragraph.

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

86 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
87 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the
88 minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

89 (E) No later than December 31, 2019, the commission shall submit its
90 recommendations for the development of a strategic plan to the Governor, the President
91 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

92 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.