

Senate Resolution 286

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Halpern of the 39th, Goodman of the 8th, Anderson of the 43rd and Merritt of the 9th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Minority Business Enterprises, Women Owned Businesses, and Veteran
2 Owned Businesses in State Contracting Study Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, as the purchasing agent for the State of Georgia, the Department of
4 Administrative Services (DOAS) is responsible for the procurement of roughly \$4.5 billion
5 of goods and services each year for state agencies, the University System of Georgia, and the
6 Technical College System of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, the State Purchasing Division (SPD) negotiates contracts to ensure customers
8 receive the best value for the dollars they spend, while providing suppliers with a fair
9 opportunity to compete for business with state entities; and

10 WHEREAS, minority business enterprises, women owned businesses, and veteran owned
11 businesses, particularly those that are under resourced and operate at low capacity, are
12 important to the growth and success of Georgia's economy; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a need to determine how best to increase outreach and improve access
14 to contracting opportunities for minority business enterprises, women owned businesses, and

15 veteran owned businesses, especially those that are most in need of increased resources and
16 capacity levels; and

17 WHEREAS, the development of strategies to attract more bidders, and to ensure that such
18 bidders are able to identify bid opportunities, possess the readiness to bid, and are taking
19 advantage of any available state and federal grants and other funding to maximize their
20 viability, may serve to increase the likelihood of participation in state contracts by minority
21 business enterprises, women owned businesses, and veteran owned businesses that are most
22 in need of such opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, knowing the current level of participation of minority business enterprises,
24 women owned businesses, and veteran owned businesses in state contracts and how this
25 compares to the number of qualified minority business enterprises, women owned
26 businesses, and veteran owned businesses ready, willing, and able to provide goods and
27 services under state contracts is necessary in order to determine what steps and strategies
28 would be most effective in increasing outreach to and improving access for such enterprises
29 and businesses that are most in need.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

31 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Minority Business
32 Enterprises, Women Owned Businesses, and Veteran Owned Businesses in State
33 Contracting Study Committee.

34 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
35 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall also appoint
36 an additional three nonlegislative members of the committee, one of whom shall be the
37 owner of a minority business enterprise, one of whom shall be the owner of a women
38 owned business, and one of whom shall be the owner of a veteran owned business. The

39 President shall designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the
40 committee.

41 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
42 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto, including, but not limited to, a
43 determination of where data sets may be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender,
44 disability, veteran status, or other key demographic variables, and recommend any action
45 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

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

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

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

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

63 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
64 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
65 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds

66 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of
67 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the
68 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
69 available to their respective agencies.

70 **(6) Report.**

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

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

78 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
79 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
80 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
81 the Secretary of the Senate.

82 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
83 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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