

Senate Resolution 308

By: Senators Anderson of the 24th, Beach of the 21st, Williams of the 25th, Ginn of the 47th, Burns of the 23rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Recycling Efficiency and Economic Development;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is the number one state for business according to *Area Development*
4 Magazine for the ninth year in a row, and it is the intent of the General Assembly to continue
5 that trend; and

6 WHEREAS, many Georgia companies and industries utilize and depend upon recycled
7 materials, including, but not limited to, manufacturers of drink bottles and containers, electric
8 vehicles, batteries, roofing shingles, exterior and interior building products, plastics, and
9 copper concentrate from e-waste; and

10 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, an estimated 1.9
11 million tons of paper, 360,000 tons of metal, 1 million tons of plastic, and 240,000 tons of
12 glass are thrown away every single year in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, many more recyclable materials are not properly utilized because of a lack of
14 availability of material recovery facilities located in this state; and

15 WHEREAS, incentivizing material recovery facilities to locate within this state has many
16 simultaneous benefits such as beneficial economic development of the material recovery
17 industry, reducing burdens on strained solid waste facilities, providing cheaper, more readily
18 available raw materials for manufacturing, and reducing the negative impacts associated with
19 production of virgin raw materials; and

20 WHEREAS, the promotion of the recycling industry will promote and enhance the
21 efficiency, profitability, and environmental sustainability of all industry in this state; and

22 WHEREAS, a discussion on landfills in Georgia and their capacities, service area, and
23 corresponding rates for taking waste is necessary to determine the best plan for promoting
24 this important industry.

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

26 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
27 on Recycling Efficiency and Economic Development.

28 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 15 members as
29 follows:

30 (A) The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment,
31 who shall serve as Chair of the committee;

32 (B) The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic Development;

33 (C) Five members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate;

34 (D) The Director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of
35 Natural Resources, or his or her designee;

36 (E) One member representing the interests of local governments in this state, to be
37 appointed by the President of the Senate; and

38 (F) Six members representing the aluminum, paper, glass, solid waste, electronic
39 waste, and electric vehicle battery recycling industries respectively, to be appointed by
40 the President of the Senate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

61 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
62 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
63 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
64 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of expenses of state

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

68 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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