

## Senate Resolution 777

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Henson of the 41st, Fort of the 39th, Davenport of the 44th, Jones of the 10th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Special Tax Exemption Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Georgia has long used various economic development tax credits as a means  
3 to attract and retain businesses; and

4 WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacts these tax credits based on assertions of proponents  
5 who argue that they are necessary in order to compete for businesses with other national and  
6 international cities, to attract or retain a certain employer, or to grow a specific industry; and

7 WHEREAS, there is a lack of concrete analysis to determine whether these tax credits  
8 actually accomplish their goals and if they are the most efficient means of growing the  
9 economy and creating jobs; and

10 WHEREAS, the confidential nature of company tax records means information on which  
11 companies receive the tax credits and how much they receive is not publicly available,  
12 leaving independent sources unable to perform an actual cost-benefit analysis on the tax  
13 credits.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
15 Special Tax Exemption Study Committee to be composed of six members appointed as  
16 follows: three members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and three members  
17 shall be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader. The President of the Senate shall  
18 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall  
19 call all meetings of the committee.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall work with independent researchers  
21 at the state's research universities to undertake a study of tax records in order to analyze and  
22 examine existing economic development tax credits to determine whether employers

23 receiving the credits are actually creating jobs at a higher rate than those that do not receive  
24 the tax credits.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall provide a report outlining which tax  
26 credits, if any, are meeting their intended goals. The report of the committee may also  
27 recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.  
28 All agencies of the state are directed to provide the committee with such assistance as the  
29 committee shall require to perform its assigned duties, to the extent provided by law.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such  
31 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully  
32 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes  
33 of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for  
34 in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances  
35 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more  
36 than five days unless additional days are authorized by the President of the Senate. The  
37 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds  
38 appropriated to the Senate.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a report of its findings and  
40 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, on or before December  
41 1, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2014.