

Senate Resolution 933

By: Senators Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th and Jones of the 10th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on DeKalb County Governance; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, over the past several years, DeKalb County has experienced great challenges
3 which have impacted its government institutions and its citizens; and
- 4 WHEREAS, numerous proposals for new cities have been made, and some have been
5 incorporated; and
- 6 WHEREAS, annexations have made a significant impact on the ability of the county to
7 deliver services and on county revenues; and
- 8 WHEREAS, there have been expressions by the citizens of DeKalb County and its elected
9 officials for the need of an expert panel to address the structural deficiencies in the governing
10 laws; and
- 11 WHEREAS, it is not healthy for DeKalb County or any government in general to have
12 structural changes forced upon it whether by the incorporation of new cities or changes to
13 its governing structure without a community-based, expert-led strategic plan for its future
14 viability; and
- 15 WHEREAS, it is time that a careful study be conducted for the county government regarding
16 what structural changes, if any, are needed to address the issues and what guiding principles
17 should be the basis for government in order to preserve public confidence.
- 18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that there is
19 created the Joint Study Committee on DeKalb County Governance to be composed of 15
20 members. One member shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, one member shall
21 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, four members shall be
22 appointed by the DeKalb County delegation in the Senate, four members shall be appointed

23 by the DeKalb County delegation in the House of Representatives, one member shall be
24 appointed by the chief executive officer of DeKalb County, two members shall be appointed
25 by the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, one member shall be appointed by the
26 DeKalb County Board of Education, and one member shall be appointed by the DeKalb
27 County Chamber of Commerce. The DeKalb County delegation in the Senate shall
28 designate a cochairperson from among its appointees, and the DeKalb County delegation in
29 the House of Representatives shall designate a cochairperson from among its appointees.
30 The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a comprehensive study
32 and review of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto
33 and all aspects of governance of DeKalb County and shall include in its final report any
34 recommendations for changes to state law relating to DeKalb County, DeKalb County's
35 government structure, and any other changes relevant to its tasks. The committee may
36 conduct its meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient
37 to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish
38 the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee is authorized to appoint
39 subcommittees if the appointment of such subcommittees would allow a more expeditious
40 and effective study of the issues. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the
41 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees from the
42 funds appropriated to the Senate and House of Representatives but shall receive the same for
43 not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Nonlegislative members of
44 the committee shall receive no compensation for their services. The committee is directed
45 to make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
46 legislation, if any, not later than December 1, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished on
47 December 1, 2014.