

Senate Resolution 896

By: Senators Tolleson of the 20th, Jeffares of the 17th and Harper of the 7th

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Legacy Program; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that as stewards of this state's natural
3 resources, Georgians have a moral imperative and economic incentive to conserve our land
4 and water; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia's land and water resources, prime agricultural and forestry
6 lands, and natural, cultural, historic, and recreational areas are a priceless legacy that enhance
7 the health of ecosystems, encourage working landscapes, foster natural resource stewardship,
8 sustain a healthy economy, and promote a sustainable high quality of life for current and
9 future generations of Georgians; and
- 10 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the State of Georgia to provide stewardship for state lands
11 to protect our natural resources and cultural heritage; and
- 12 WHEREAS, it is essential to our state economy to conserve working farms and forests; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the state should provide support for maintenance of local parks and trails; and
- 14 WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide funding options to acquire critical areas for clean
15 water, game, wildlife, fisheries, and natural resource based outdoor recreation; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the state should establish funding options through various sources and ensure
17 the most effective use of such funds for the protection and conservation of the state's ample
18 natural resources and land.
- 19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Legacy Program
21 to study the need for the state to provide funding options to acquire critical areas for clean

22 water, game, wildlife, fisheries, and natural resource based outdoor recreation. The study
23 committee shall be composed of 11 members as follows: the Chairperson of the Natural
24 Resources and Environment Committee of the House of Representatives; the Chairperson
25 of the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee; two members of the
26 Natural Resources and Environment Committee of the House of Representatives, selected
27 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; two members of the Senate Natural
28 Resources and the Environment Committee, selected by the President of the Senate; director
29 of Georgia Forestry Commission or his or her designee; the director of the Georgia
30 Environmental Finance Authority, or his or her designee; the Commissioner of the Georgia
31 Department of Agriculture, or his or her designee; the commissioner of the Department of
32 Natural Resources, or his or her designee; the director of the Environmental Protection
33 Division of the Department of Natural Resources, or his or her designee; and the
34 commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, or his or her designee. The
35 Governor shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The
36 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
38 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
39 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
40 of this resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances
41 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the
42 same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Any other public
43 employees who are members of the committee shall receive no compensation from
44 legislative funds but may be reimbursed for expenses by their employers. The funds
45 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
46 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
47 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
48 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2014, at which time
49 the committee shall stand abolished.