

House Bill 676 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Houston of the 170th, Dickey of the 140th, England of the 116th, Gilliard of the 162nd, Williams of the 148th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to farmers' markets, so as to provide for oversight by a legislative advisory
3 committee; to provide for members, duties, and allowances; to provide for presentation of
4 findings; to provide for planning; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related
5 matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 farmers' markets, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "2-10-53.1.

11 (a) The Commissioner shall establish, operate, and maintain this state's farmers' markets
12 under the oversight of a legislative advisory committee to be composed as follows:

13 (1) The chairpersons of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Economic
14 Development and Tourism and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture
15 and Consumer Affairs or their designees, ex officio;

16 (2) The chairperson of the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee or his
17 or her designee;

18 (3) The chairperson of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee or his
19 or her designee;

20 (4) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the chairperson of the
21 House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee; and

22 (5) Three members of the Senate appointed by the chairperson of the Senate Agriculture
23 and Consumer Affairs Committee.

24 (b) The members of the legislative advisory committee shall appoint the committee's
25 chairperson and vice-chairperson, who shall each serve two-year terms to coincide with the
26 legislative biennium of the General Assembly.

27 (c) The members of the legislative advisory committee shall receive the allowances
28 provided for in Code Section 28-1-8.

29 (d) The legislative advisory committee created by this Code section shall be tasked with
30 the duty to:

31 (1) Commission an independent study of the economic viability and public benefit of
32 each existing farmers' market with an analysis of the benefits to this state's agribusiness
33 economy, including this state's farmers, food supply chain, grocers, restaurants,
34 agri-tourism, local economies, and the effectiveness of the marketing of Georgia grown
35 products. Upon completion of the study, the findings shall be presented to the legislative
36 advisory committee; and

37 (2) Using such findings as provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection, coordinate
38 with the Commissioner and the department to develop a five-year plan for all of this
39 state's farmers' markets that maximizes the public benefit of all farmers' market properties
40 and ensures efficient and fiscally responsible operation of such markets.

41 (e) This Code section shall stand repealed on January 10, 2027."

42 **SECTION 2.**

43 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
44 without such approval.

45 **SECTION 3.**

46 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.