

House Resolution 10

By: Representatives Thomas of the 65th, Drenner of the 85th, and Lim of the 98th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Public Water Systems Serving Disadvantaged
2 Communities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS the term "public water system" means a system for the provision to the public
4 of piped water for human consumption, and such system has at least 15 service connections
5 or regularly serves at least 25 individuals; and

6 WHEREAS, it is the declared intent of the General Assembly that the drinking water
7 resources of this state shall be utilized prudently to the maximum benefit of the people and
8 that the quality of such drinking water shall be considered a major factor in the health and
9 welfare of all people in the State of Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, it is further declared that the State of Georgia shall assume responsibility for
11 the quality of such waters and for the establishment and maintenance of a water-supply
12 program adequate for present needs and designed to provide for the future needs of the state;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a
15 program to assist underserved, disadvantaged communities and small communities with
16 funds to improve drinking water resources; and

17 WHEREAS, the EPA defines a small or disadvantaged community as a community:

18 (1) That the state determines to be a disadvantaged community under the Safe Drinking
19 Water Act (SDWA), Section 1452(d)(3), or one which may become a disadvantaged
20 community as a result of carrying out a project or activity; or

21 (2) With a population of less than 10,000 individuals that does not have the capacity to
22 incur debt sufficient to finance a project to comply with the SDWA; and

23 WHEREAS, under the EPA program, states will need to develop a robust list of fundable
24 projects that meet the requirements of the grant program to receive funding; and

25 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the citizens of this state to participate in such program
26 to improve the health of Georgia communities and the drinking water resources utilized by
27 all people in the State of Georgia.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

29 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
30 on Public Water Systems Serving Disadvantaged Communities.

31 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
32 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
33 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
34 of the committee.

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

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

42 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
43 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
44 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
45 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
46 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
47 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

48 (6) **Report.**

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

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

56 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
57 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
58 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
59 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

60 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
61 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
62 thereof.

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