

House Resolution 1127

By: Representative Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Development Authorities and Downtown  
2 Development Authorities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Chapter 62 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated authorizes  
4 every county and city in the state to establish a development authority; and

5 WHEREAS, Chapter 42 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated authorizes  
6 every city in the state to establish a downtown development authority; and

7 WHEREAS, a multitude of local constitutional amendments and local acts have created an  
8 array of additional local development authorities across the state; and

9 WHEREAS, development authorities and downtown development authorities represent  
10 critical tools for the development and promotion of trade, commerce, industry, and  
11 employment opportunities for the public good and the general welfare of this state; and

12 WHEREAS, the property of development authorities and downtown development authorities  
13 is usually exempt from taxation; and

14 WHEREAS, such authorities have issued billions of dollars worth of tax abatements across  
15 the state; and

16 WHEREAS, the practices and procedures of some development authorities have raised  
17 questions as to nature and benefit of certain tax abatements; and

18 WHEREAS, there is little to no state-wide or centralized oversight of and data available with  
19 regard to operations of local development authorities and downtown development authorities;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, a thorough study of the creation, operation, and management of development  
22 authorities and downtown development authorities is long overdue, so as to determine what  
23 appropriate revisions are needed to state law so as to the abuse of the citizens and taxpayers  
24 of this state.

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

26 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
27 on Development Authorities and Downtown Development Authorities.

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

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

35 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee  
36 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

37 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
38 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

39 **(5) Allowances and funding.**

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

46 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

61 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.