

House Resolution 1166

By: Representatives Meeks of the 178th, Houston of the 170th, Dickey of the 145th, Williams of the 148th, and Campbell of the 171st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Exchange, Storage, and Bond Coverage of
2 Agricultural Products, Grain, and Livestock; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, agriculture has been, and remains, Georgia's top industry; and

4 WHEREAS, Georgia's farmers and producers face numerous economic pressures, including
5 the threat of litigation, cost inflation with respect to supplies and equipment, and volatile
6 prices for their crops; and

7 WHEREAS, the number of surety bond claims made to the Georgia Department of
8 Agriculture is steadily increasing and a significant number bond filings have been avoided
9 through amicable resolutions; and

10 WHEREAS, the department's Warehouse and Bonding Division is focused on protecting
11 Georgia's various agricultural commodity producers from fraudulent actions by ensuring that
12 warehouses are licensed and maintain adequate surety bond coverage; and

13 WHEREAS, the mission of the Warehouse and Bonding Division is to help protect Georgia's
14 producers by providing limited financial protection through the maintenance of adequate
15 surety bond coverage; and

16 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives should evaluate warehouse and bonding policies
17 and best practices implemented in other states and seek the advice of experts in the various
18 fields associated with the topic, including, but not limited to, Georgia's agricultural
19 producers, lawyers, and financial institutions, in considering additional measures that may
20 be necessary and appropriate for Georgia.

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

22 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
23 on the Exchange, Storage, and Bond Coverage of Agricultural Products, Grain, and
24 Livestock.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members of the
26 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
28 of the committee.

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

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

36 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
37 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia

38 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
39 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
40 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
41 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

42 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

57 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.