

House Resolution 1352

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Lumsden of the 12th, Hitchens of the 161st, Mathis of the 149th, DeLoach of the 167th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Flood Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Joint Study Committee; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, floods can occur any time water overwhelms land and can be caused by
4 unpredictable natural events, such as when prolonged rain falls over several days, intense
5 rain falls over a short period of time, sea levels rise, or snow melts quickly, or by avoidable
6 manmade events, such as when dams or levees break, stormwater management facilities are
7 insufficient or fail, or changes in land use; and

8 WHEREAS, heavy rains in 2009 caused severe flooding and widespread damage to
9 residential, public, and commercial structures in northern and southern Georgia, resulting in
10 more than \$560 million in damage; and

11 WHEREAS, flash flooding in Atlanta in 2023 filled roadways and parking lots with
12 rainwater, submerged cars and filled buildings at Clark Atlanta University, and required the
13 Georgia Aquarium to be evacuated; and

14 WHEREAS, flooding impacts all regions of Georgia, and individuals, communities, cities,
15 and counties need to be prepared on how to mitigate flood disasters; and

16 WHEREAS, local governments can utilize many tools to manage the impact of floods and
17 avoid a flooding disaster, including zoning ordinances, stormwater utilities, reservoirs, and
18 emergency protocols; and

19 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to investigate funding and resources available to facilitate
20 local government responses to flood disasters and risk reduction strategies to mitigate the
21 impact of flood disasters.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 GEORGIA:

24 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Flood Disaster Risk
25 Reduction and Recovery Joint Study Committee.

26 (2) **Members and officers.**

27 (A) The committee shall be composed of ten members.

28 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the
29 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
30 members as cochairperson.

31 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate as members
32 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

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

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

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

46 (6) **Report.**

47 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
48 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons 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 cochairpersons 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 cochairpersons of the committee and filed
57 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

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

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