

House Resolution 1353

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 House Study Committee on Funding for Flood Disaster Risk Reduction and
2 Recovery; and for 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, a study is needed 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

23 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
24 on Funding for Flood Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five 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.