

House Resolution 1354

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th and Gilliard of the 162nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Coastal Area Regional Workforce Mobility and Connectivity Study
2 Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the coastal area region of this state is seeing massive multibillion dollar
4 investments in industrial growth with the construction of the Hyundai Motors North
5 American MetaPlant and its affiliated suppliers and support facilities; and

6 WHEREAS, this increased level of activity alone will ultimately create more than 15,000
7 new jobs and will bring new residents to Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, and Effingham counties
8 and their surrounding areas; and

9 WHEREAS, to this growth must be added expansions at Gulfstream Aerospace, Amazon,
10 and the Georgia Ports Authority, among others, as well as a dynamic, transitioning
11 marketplace; and

12 WHEREAS, it is projected that the most immediately impacted areas of this growth will be
13 within a 60 mile radius of the Bryan County Mega Site and in Chatham County directly; and

14 WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of affordable housing for an ever-growing workforce
15 and these areas need a unified system of regional, integrated, and comprehensive
16 transportation and mobility services and infrastructure in order for this area to maximize
17 economic benefits; and

18 WHEREAS, housing options and expanded mobility options require consideration and
19 communication among the residents, cities, and new employment centers; and

20 WHEREAS, it is important to study and assess the needs for and means of providing a viable
21 and adequate transportation and mobility network and system to connect new and existing
22 residential communities to employment growth centers so as to provide a functional, reliable,
23 and affordable service that allows these employees to report to work on a daily basis; and

24 WHEREAS, such study should include an analysis of strategies and partnerships for the
25 funding of such a transportation and mobility services and develop a blueprint for the
26 development, improvement, and expansion of such network and system; and

27 WHEREAS, this study will also reflect the foundation of the "Coastal Empire Plan" work
28 recently completed by the Georgia Department of Transportation, as well as the "Savannah
29 JDA Workforce Development Plan"; and

30 WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasize efficiency and coordination
31 to improve workforce mobility in this region; and

32 WHEREAS, such study is necessary to develop a unified regional structure to meet these
33 new transportation challenges, along with determining strategies and partnerships for funding
34 the operation of such necessary mobility services, improvements, and facilities.

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

36 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Coastal Area
37 Regional Workforce Mobility and Connectivity Study Committee.

38 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following
39 members:

40 (A) The chairperson, or his or her designee, of each of the following entities:

41 (i) The Development Authority of Bryan County;

42 (ii) The Development Authority of Bulloch County;

43 (iii) The Effingham County Industrial Development Authority; and

44 (iv) The Savannah Economic Development Authority;

45 (B) The chairperson or county manager of:

46 (i) Bryan County;

47 (ii) Bulloch County;

48 (iii) Chatham County; and

49 (iv) Effingham County;

50 (C) The mayor or city manager of the City of Savannah;

51 (D) The chairperson, or his or her designee, of the following chambers of commerce:

52 (i) Bryan County;

53 (ii) Bulloch County;

54 (iii) Chatham County; and

55 (iv) Effingham County;

56 (E) A member of the Georgia Ports Authority;

57 (F) A representative of Gulfstream;

58 (G) The District 1 board representative of the Georgia Department of Transportation;

59 (H) The chairperson of the Coastal Regional Commission or his or her designee;

- 60 (I) Two members of the Georgia House of Representatives and two members of the
61 Georgia State Senate selected by a majority vote of the legislative delegations for
62 Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, and Effingham counties;
- 63 (J) The chairperson of the board and the chief executive officer of the Chatham Area
64 Transit Authority;
- 65 (K) The executive director of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
66 of the Metropolitan Planning Commission;
- 67 (L) The executive director of Goodwill Industries; and
- 68 (M) The president and chief executive officer of Workforce for the Savannah
69 Economic Development Authority.
- 70 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
71 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
72 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 73 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
74 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
75 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
76 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
- 77 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**
- 78 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
79 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
- 80 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
81 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,
82 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their
83 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for
84 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.
- 85 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
86 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that

87 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
88 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
89 employees.

90 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
91 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
92 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
93 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the
94 reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and
95 state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their
96 respective agencies.

97 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

109 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
110 House of Representatives copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
111 thereof.

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