

House Resolution 1466

By: Representatives Price of the 48th, Cantrell of the 22nd, Stephens of the 164th, Blackmon of the 146th, Deffenbaugh of the 1st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Evaluating and Recommending on Continuing or
2 Abolishing Daylight Saving Time; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Daylight Saving Time (DST) or "Summer Time" is or has been adopted by
4 about 40 percent of the world's population, by advancing the clock in late winter or spring,
5 and then in the autumn adjusting the clocks back again to Eastern Standard Time (EST); and

6 WHEREAS, this idea was proposed in 1895 in Europe, first implemented temporarily in
7 1916 to reduce energy utilized in times of energy shortages during World War I and was
8 utilized again during World War II, with questionable benefit and potential harm currently
9 under DST; and

10 WHEREAS, the increase in daylight hours during DST was initially purported to be helpful
11 to the agrarian economy in those times but needs to be evaluated with respect to current
12 agricultural benefit or harm; and

13 WHEREAS, changing clocks twice a year affects economic efficiency and productivity,
14 disrupts travel and religious services, complicates billing, adds to overtime in shift work, and
15 causes confusion in meetings, record management, medical devices, broadcasts, computers,
16 and heavy equipment; and

17 WHEREAS, changing clocks twice a year is not beneficial to an individual's health and may
18 even be a health hazard, disrupting sleep patterns and circadian rhythm and leading to more
19 heart attacks and ischemic strokes in the periods immediately following the changes; and

20 WHEREAS, the switch to DST, particularly in the spring, is a safety issue and has been
21 linked to increases in industrial and automobile accidents by sleep deprived individuals; and

22 WHEREAS, a 2014 Rasmussen poll finds that fewer Americans each year think that
23 changing to DST annually is "worth the hassle," the percent declining from 45 percent to 33
24 percent in two years; and

25 WHEREAS, DST was first adopted in the United States in 1918 under the Standard Time
26 Act of 1918, as amended by the Uniform Time Act of 1966, and since then there have been
27 many enactments, adjustments, and repeals due to the inconvenience, business opposition,
28 and safety and health issues to the point that currently the citizens of Georgia spend eight
29 months in Daylight Saving Time and four months in Eastern Standard Time; and

30 WHEREAS, the Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), formerly the Greenwich Mean Time,
31 identifies the local time observed in each of the 24 time zones, and the status of Georgia in
32 UTC designation is UTC (-5) during Standard Time and UTC (-4) during DST; and

33 WHEREAS, if the State of Georgia decided not to change clocks twice a year, it must be
34 determined whether to remain permanently in Eastern Standard Time (EST or UTC-5) or
35 Daylight Saving Time (DST or UTC-4); and

36 WHEREAS, the determination of time zones is administered, regulated, and issued to
37 Georgia through the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) and the National
38 Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

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

40 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
41 on Evaluating and Recommending on Continuing or Abolishing Daylight Saving Time.

42 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
43 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
44 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional five members of the
45 committee representing the areas of agriculture, energy, economic development and
46 tourism, education, and transportation. The Speaker shall designate a member of the
47 committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

55 **(5) Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

56 (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall
57 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
58 Georgia Annotated.

59 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than members of the
60 General Assembly, or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their
61 services on the committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them
62 in the performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as
63 they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

64 (C) Members of the committee who are not members of the General Assembly, state
65 officials, or state employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the
66 same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code
67 of Georgia Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for
68 state employees.

69 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
70 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
71 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
72 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement
73 of the expenses of state officials, other than members of the General Assembly, and for
74 the reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds
75 appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

76 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

91 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.