

House Resolution 161

By: Representatives Gilliard of the 162nd, Stephens of the 164th, Petrea of the 166th, and Mallow of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on a Nancy Hanks Passenger Rail Line from Savannah
2 to Atlanta; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, The Nancy Hanks was a popular railway passenger train in Georgia running
4 between Atlanta and Savannah named after a race horse that was named after Abraham
5 Lincoln's mother; and

6 WHEREAS, "The Nancy," as it was affectionately known, was an all-coach, reserved seat
7 train with grill lounge service that last ran on April 30, 1971, the day before Amtrak came
8 into being, and was highly successful in its day; and

9 WHEREAS, Savannah is Georgia's "first city" and attracts millions of visitors to its
10 cobblestone streets, parks, and notable historic buildings that make up one of the largest
11 National Historic Landmark Districts in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, traffic congestion in metropolitan Atlanta is among the worst in the nation, and
13 a lack of transit options and methods for improving travel times throughout the state put
14 Georgia at an economic and business recruiting disadvantage to neighboring states; and

15 WHEREAS, if Atlanta and Savannah were connected by a modern-day, high-speed train
16 traveling an average of 200 miles per hour, the coast would be within a 75 minute ride from
17 Atlanta; and

18 WHEREAS, such a route could change the complexion of Georgia from having two different
19 economies to a state with transportation infrastructure serving as "the logistics hub of the
20 Western Hemisphere" in the 21st century; and

21 WHEREAS, with stops in Dublin and Macon, a Savannah-to-Atlanta railway would increase
22 tourism and economic development throughout the state and enhance mobility, improve air
23 quality, save energy, and reduce congestion in metropolitan Atlanta; and;

24 WHEREAS, study is needed to examine the possibility, feasibility, and viability of a railway
25 connecting Savannah and Atlanta.

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

27 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
28 on a Nancy Hanks Passenger Rail Line from Savannah to Atlanta.

29 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
30 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
31 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
32 of the committee.

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 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
37 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

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

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

46 (6) **Report.**

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

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

61 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.