

House Resolution 1643

By: Representatives Mainor of the 56th, Stephens of the 164th, Gilliard of the 162nd, Panitch of the 51st, Mitchell of the 88th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Atlanta's Historic Civil Rights Communities; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Atlanta is the capital of our great State of Georgia and known to be home of the
4 Civil Rights Movement; and

5 WHEREAS, a few of the notable founding leaders of Atlanta's Civil Rights Movement are
6 Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., Ambassador Andrew Young, former Congressman
7 John Lewis, Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, Herman J. Russell, Honorable Mayor
8 Maynard Jackson, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Carolyn Long Banks, Ralph Long, Lonnie King,
9 Herchelle Sullivan Challenor, Julian Bond, Donn Clendenon, Benjamin Elijah Mays, Leroy
10 Johnson, Hamilton Holmes, Grace Towns Hamilton, Hank Aaron, Reverend Doctor Cameron
11 Madison Alexander, and others; and

12 WHEREAS, some of the notable civil rights organizations founded in Atlanta are The
13 Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights,
14 the Atlanta Student Movement, the Atlanta University Center, the Student Nonviolent
15 Coordinating Committee, and others; and

16 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has never studied the impact of Atlanta's Civil Rights
17 Movement economically or socially or its potential to strengthen Georgia's role in tourism;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Georgia travel and tourism generated \$73 billion in total economic impact and
20 supported more than 442,600 jobs in 2022. The state welcomed 167.7 million domestic and
21 international visitors in 2022 who brought in \$39.8 billion in spending; and

22 WHEREAS, Atlanta's civil rights legacy is and can continue to be a catalyst for economic
23 prosperity and organized efforts to advocate for conservative, religious-based policies that
24 promote the values of the United States Constitution, including educational freedom; and

25 WHEREAS, although the Civil Rights Movement occurred throughout the United States,
26 Georgia can be a leader in the historic preservation of communities, churches, schools,
27 colleges and universities, and businesses; and

28 WHEREAS, the oral testimony of those still living has not been documented by the State of
29 Georgia; and

30 WHEREAS, unless the State of Georgia uses its resources to document such rich history of
31 this state, it is feared the historical record will forever be lost; and

32 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia aims to document Atlanta's Civil Rights Movement from
33 all vested stakeholders regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion because we understand the
34 passage of the Civil Rights Movement was a collective effort initiated with the Republican
35 Party after the Civil War with the Emancipation Proclamation.

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

37 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
38 on Atlanta's Historic Civil Rights Communities.

39 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of three members of the
40 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
41 The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

42 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of Atlanta's historic
43 westside communities and the people and businesses that contributed to Georgia's legacy
44 as home to the Civil Rights Movement and how this legacy provides an opportunity for the
45 State of Georgia to strengthen its role in tourism and recommend any action or legislation
46 which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

51 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive the
52 allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
53 The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
54 committee for more than six days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary
55 to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the
56 House of Representatives.

57 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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