

House Resolution 255

By: Representatives Drenner of the 85th and Thomas of the 65th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Environmental Justice; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, environmental hazards pose a serious risk to the health and welfare of the
3 citizens of this state; and
- 4 WHEREAS, certain facilities that require permitting from regulatory bodies, including from
5 the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, may be
6 sources of pollution that are creating, or could potentially create, environmental hazards in
7 the state; and
- 8 WHEREAS, such facilities that are sources of pollution, through the decision to place such
9 facilities in certain areas over others as well as potential uneven enforcement of
10 environmental laws and regulations, may be disproportionately impacting low-income
11 neighborhoods or neighborhoods populated by minorities in the state; and
- 12 WHEREAS, equal enforcement of environmental laws and regulations as well as ensuring
13 that the impact on low-income and minority neighborhoods is fully considered in permitting
14 decisions would mitigate or alleviate the disproportionate effect such facilities may have on
15 low-income and minority residents of the state; and

16 WHEREAS, study is needed to develop potential legislation or other action that could be
17 taken to ensure that low-income and minority residents of the state are not disproportionately
18 impacted by sources of pollution from certain facilities that are creating, or have the potential
19 to create, environmental hazards in the state.

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

21 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
22 on Environmental Justice.

23 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
24 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
26 of the committee.

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

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

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

40 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

55 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.