

## House Resolution 487

By: Representatives Bruce of the 61<sup>st</sup> and Thomas of the 65<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Minority Business Enterprises, Women Owned  
2 Businesses, and Veteran Owned Businesses in State Contracting; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, as the purchasing agent for the State of Georgia, the Department of  
4 Administrative Services (DOAS) is responsible for the procurement of roughly \$4.5 billion  
5 of goods and services each year for state agencies, the University System of Georgia, and the  
6 Technical College System of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, the State Purchasing Division (SPD) negotiates contracts to ensure customers  
8 receive the best value for the dollars they spend, while providing suppliers with a fair  
9 opportunity to compete for business with state entities; and

10 WHEREAS, minority business enterprises, women owned businesses, and veteran owned  
11 businesses, particularly those that are under resourced and operate at low capacity, are  
12 important to the growth and success of Georgia's economy; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a need to determine how best to increase outreach and improve access  
14 to contracting opportunities for minority business enterprises, women owned businesses, and

15 veteran owned businesses, especially those that are most in need of increased resources and  
16 capacity levels; and

17 WHEREAS, the development of strategies to attract more bidders, and to ensure that such  
18 bidders are able to identify bid opportunities, possess the readiness to bid, and are taking  
19 advantage of any available state and federal grants and other funding to maximize their  
20 viability, may serve to increase the likelihood of participation in state contracts by minority  
21 business enterprises, women owned businesses, and veteran owned businesses that are most  
22 in need of such opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, knowing the current level of participation of minority business enterprises,  
24 women owned businesses, and veteran owned businesses in state contracts and how this  
25 compares to the number of qualified minority business enterprises, women owned  
26 businesses, and veteran owned businesses ready, willing, and able to provide goods and  
27 services under state contracts is necessary in order to determine what steps and strategies  
28 would be most effective in increasing outreach to and improving access for such enterprises  
29 and businesses that are most in need.

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

31 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
32 on Minority Business Enterprises, Women Owned Businesses, and Veteran Owned  
33 Businesses in State Contracting.

34 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
35 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
36 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional three nonlegislative  
37 members of the committee, one of whom shall be the owner of a minority business  
38 enterprise, one of whom shall be the owner of a women owned business, and one of

39 whom shall be the owner of a veteran owned business. The Speaker shall designate a  
40 legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

41 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
42 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto, including, but not limited to, a  
43 determination of where data sets may be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender,  
44 disability, veteran status, or other key demographic variables, and recommend any action  
45 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

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

51 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided  
52 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

53 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
54 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the  
55 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the  
56 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they  
57 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

58 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
59 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
60 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
61 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
62 employees.

63 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
64 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
65 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds

66 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement  
67 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the  
68 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated  
69 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

70 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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