

House Resolution 895

By: Representatives Allen of the 40th, Wilkerson of the 38th, Dreyer of the 59th, Jones of the 53rd, Anulewicz of the 42nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Ethylene Oxide Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, ethylene oxide is a gas used to make a variety of products and to sterilize
3 equipment that cannot be sterilized with steam; and

4 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency elevated the risk value associated with
5 ethylene oxide in 2016, acknowledging that the gas is linked to elevated cancer risks; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division monitors, regulates, and permits
7 certain facilities that utilize ethylene oxide; and

8 WHEREAS, the state currently has eight facilities known to utilize ethylene oxide in some
9 manner and recently such gas has been emitted from at least two of these facilities; and

10 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to evaluate current state laws, as well as proposed
11 legislation to revise such laws, relating to the health risks associated with release of ethylene
12 oxide into the environment and reducing the amount of ethylene oxide emissions.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 GEORGIA:

15 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Ethylene Oxide Study
16 Committee.

17 (2) **Members and officers.**

18 (A) The committee shall be composed of ten members.

19 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
20 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
21 members as cochairperson.

22 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members
23 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

24 (D) One member shall be the director of the Environmental Protection Division or his
25 or her designee. The director shall be a nonvoting member.

26 (E) One member shall be the commissioner of public health or his or her designee.
27 The commissioner shall be a nonvoting member.

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

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

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

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

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

43 (C) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
44 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
45 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
46 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate; except that funds
47 for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members,
48 and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to
49 their respective agencies.

50 (6) **Report.**

51 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
52 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
53 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
54 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

55 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
56 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
57 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

58 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
59 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

60 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
61 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

62 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk
63 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes
64 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

65 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.