

Senate Resolution 822

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Economic Development and International
2 Relations; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has long been recognized as a top state for doing business; and

4 WHEREAS, international companies play a major role in Georgia's economy, and Georgia
5 already enjoys a healthy and prosperous economic relationship with partners around the
6 globe; and

7 WHEREAS, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta and the Port of Savannah
8 are among the busiest points of entry in the United States and have been key in attracting
9 new companies to Georgia, expanding existing businesses, and creating a vast inventory of
10 site options for international business; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia's cities offer international companies economic growth opportunities
12 while providing local economies and citizens with jobs and career opportunities; and

13 WHEREAS, with the expansion of economic globalization, local economic development
14 becomes global, and Georgia must take full advantage of international markets; and

15 WHEREAS, furthering strong international relations and increasing export and import
16 opportunities will allow Georgia's economy to continue to thrive and grow; and

17 WHEREAS, fostering and expanding Georgia's international economic relations will lead
18 to further significant contributions to the economy, job creation, and welfare of this state; and

19 WHEREAS, in light of the above, it is highly desirable to encourage and promote the
20 continued growth and success of international economic relations in Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to examine the following aspects of economic
22 development and international relations in Georgia:

23 (1) Existing state policies, laws, and programs which promote or affect economic
24 development with special emphasis on those concerning international trade, tourism, and
25 investment and their cost-effectiveness and level of cooperation with other public and
26 private entities;

27 (2) Economic trends and potential state responses;

28 (3) Economic development policies and programs of other states and nations and their
29 effectiveness;

30 (4) The impact of international trade, tourism, and investment upon the state's economy;

31 (5) The need for and effect of federal, regional, and state cooperation in economic
32 development policies and programs;

33 (6) Opportunities to collaborate with public and private entities in achieving Georgia's
34 international relations objectives;

35 (7) State tourism slogans or taglines to promote international economic relations;

36 (8) The potential for using official legislative trade delegations to promote international
37 economic relations;

38 (9) The potential to expand the state's use of sister-state relationships; and

39 (10) Legislative proposals concerning the issues specified herein.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

41 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
42 on Economic Development and International Relations.

43 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall consist of the following members:

44 (A) Five members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including the
45 chairpersons of the Senate Appropriations-Economic Development subcommittee and
46 the Senate Appropriations-Transportation subcommittee. The President of the Senate
47 shall designate one legislative member as chairperson of the committee;

48 (B) The commissioner of economic development or his or her designee;

49 (C) One nonlegislative member appointed by the President of the Senate with expertise
50 in local economic development; and

51 (D) The President of the Senate, ex officio.

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

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

59 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

62 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
63 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,
64 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their

65 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for
66 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

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

72 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
73 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
74 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
75 from funds appropriated to the Senate, except that funds for the reimbursement of the
76 expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall
77 come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

78 **(6) Report.**

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

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

86 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
87 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
88 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
89 the Secretary of the Senate.

90 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
91 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

92 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.