

Senate Resolution 224

By: Senators Ginn of the 47th, Jeffares of the 17th, Gooch of the 51st, Harper of the 7th, Harbin of the 16th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Storm-Water Management Fees; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, principles of fairness dictate that costs borne by taxpayers for services provided
4 should be in proportion, to the greatest extent practical, to the actual utilization of the service
5 by individual taxpayers; and

6 WHEREAS, local governments currently impose storm-water collection and disposal fees
7 upon private property owners without regard to such owners' individual impact on the
8 storm-water collection and disposal system; and

9 WHEREAS, for the purposes of striking the proper balance between water quality protection
10 and the equitable sharing of burdens for impact to storm-water systems, it would be
11 beneficial to review the existing data and current practices relating to storm-water
12 management fees.

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 Study Committee on
16 Storm-Water Management Fees.

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

18 (A) The committee shall be composed of 12 members as follows:

19 (B) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including the
20 chairperson of the Natural Resources and the Environment Committee, who shall serve
21 as cochairperson;

22 (C) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, including the chairperson of the Natural Resources and
24 Environment Committee, who shall serve as cochairperson;

(D) Two members with experience in local government appointed by the President of the Senate;

(E) Two members with experience in local government appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(F) Two members from the private sector who own property subject to storm-water management fees appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(G) Two members from the private sector who own property subject to storm-water management fees appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

60 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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

75 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2017.