

## House Resolution 1060

By: Representatives Cantrell of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Harrell of the 106<sup>th</sup>, Efstoration of the 104<sup>th</sup>, Greene of the 151<sup>st</sup>, Cheokas of the 138<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Business and Legal Immigration; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2019, Georgia was named the best state in the nation in which to conduct  
4 business for the sixth year in a row; and

5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recognizes and values the dedication and entrepreneurial  
6 spirit of Georgia's small businesses that keep the state and America's economies growing  
7 strong. There are more than 785,000 registered establishments in Georgia, representing a  
8 majority of the total number of businesses with employees in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, approximately one million Georgians, comprising ten percent of the state's total  
10 population are foreign-born, and 41.9 percent are naturalized citizens of the United States;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's foreign-born community makes vital contributions to the state's  
13 economic engine and tax base, holding more than \$21.6 billion in spending power and paying  
14 more than \$8 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2017; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia legal immigrants play an outsized role in the state's thriving small  
16 business community, owning nearly one-third of Georgia's main street businesses and  
17 employing around 137,000 Georgians statewide, despite comprising only ten percent of the  
18 total population; and

19 WHEREAS, foreign-born healthcare professionals comprise more than ten percent of  
20 Georgia nurses and medical assistants and 17 percent of Georgia doctors, and the state is in  
21 great need of additional qualified medical professionals, like these, to address professional  
22 workforce shortages, particularly in the rural areas; and

23 WHEREAS, one in seven Georgia workers is foreign-born, and these workers are essential  
24 to the success of Georgia's core industries, including agriculture, poultry processing,  
25 manufacturing, warehousing, tourism, hospitality, and construction; and

26 WHEREAS, 73 percent of US businesses employing legal refugee workers reported a higher  
27 retention rate for refugees than for other employees; and

28 WHEREAS, Georgia businesses have developed a powerful partnership with the state's legal  
29 refugee and immigrant community, investing heavily in and relying upon Georgia's  
30 foreign-born workforce; and

31 WHEREAS, despite these efforts, Georgia's industries today are facing significant workforce  
32 shortages, especially in rural communities, while many talented and motivated foreign-born  
33 legal immigrants struggle to find sufficient career pathways; and

34 WHEREAS, workforce development is a key priority for Georgia and its continued  
35 economic success, and Georgia can provide greater prosperity for all by leveraging its New  
36 American workforce and removing barriers to full economic participation that no longer  
37 serve the interests of the state.

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

39 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
40 on Business and Legal Immigration.

41 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
42 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
43 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson  
44 of the committee.

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

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

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

53 (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall  
54 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of  
55 Georgia Annotated.

56 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
57 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
58 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
59 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

60 (6) **Report.**

61 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
62 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson 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 chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)  
67 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 chairperson of the committee and filed with  
71 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

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