

House Resolution 169

By: Representative Drenner of the 85th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Water Customer Rights; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, local governments and private systems that provide water and sewer services
3 have customers who rely on those services for their health, safety, and welfare; and
- 4 WHEREAS, these customers have few, if any, alternative sources for such services; and
- 5 WHEREAS, it is important to investigate the level of service provided to such customers and
6 whether assistance to such customers is needed; and
- 7 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to both the customers and the local governments and
8 private systems providing water and sewer services to study the feasibility of a program that
9 would protect the rights of such customers while ensuring that local governments and private
10 systems are not hindered in their provision of services.
- 11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
- 12 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
13 on Water Customer Rights.

14 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
15 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional two nonlegislative
17 members of the committee as follows: the executive director of the Public Service
18 Commission, or his or her designee, and the executive director of the Georgia
19 Environmental Finance Authority, or his or her designee. The Speaker shall designate
20 a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

48 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

63 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2023.