

House Resolution 223

By: Representatives Evans of the 83rd, Washburn of the 141st, Buckner of the 137th, Thomas of the 21st, and Kausche of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Committee on Sustainable Materials Management on State Properties; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is known as the "Top State for Doing Business"; and

4 WHEREAS, many companies in this state and institutions within the University System of
5 Georgia have excellent sustainability and resiliency programs; and

6 WHEREAS, recycling, managing recovered materials, reducing waste, and composting are
7 good for Georgia's economy; the \$2.5 billion recycling industry in Georgia sustains over
8 12,500 jobs and generates \$232.5 million in state and local taxes; and

9 WHEREAS, more than 100 manufacturers in Georgia depend upon recycled plastic, glass,
10 metal, and paper and organics as feedstocks in manufacturing new products, and on a per-ton
11 basis, composting waste creates twice as many jobs as landfilling waste; and

12 WHEREAS, recycling, managing recovered materials, reducing waste, and composting are
13 good for Georgia's environment by saving energy and water, reducing greenhouse gas

14 emissions, limiting air and water pollution, and conserving forests and other natural
15 resources; and

16 WHEREAS, additionally, composting is good for Georgia's environment, as it conserves
17 water, enriches soil, prevents erosion, saves money, and extends the life of landfills; and

18 WHEREAS, this state should identify ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle on all state
19 properties to support the local economy; and

20 WHEREAS, this state needs to invest in technical guidance to manage waste in a sustainable
21 manner on all state properties in the form of studies, toolkits, and technical support staff at
22 the state level; and

23 WHEREAS, this state realizes the need for reducing waste across state properties and should
24 strive to be a leader in reducing, reusing, and recycling.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
26 GEORGIA:

27 (1) **Creation of joint committee.** There is created the Joint Committee on Sustainable
28 Materials Management on State Properties.

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

30 (A) The committee shall be composed of 14 members.

31 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the
32 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
33 members as cochairperson. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also
34 appoint an additional four members of the committee as follows: a representative from
35 the Georgia Building Authority with knowledge about housekeeping matters; a

36 representative from the Georgia Department of Economic Development with
37 knowledge about energy innovation; a representative from the Georgia Recycling
38 Coalition; and a representative from the Georgia Conservancy.

39 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members
40 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. The
41 President of the Senate shall also appoint an additional four members of the committee
42 as follows: a representative from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division; a
43 representative from the University System of Georgia with expertise in sustainability
44 and resiliency programs; a representative from the Georgia Recycled Organics Council;
45 and a representative from the industry of nonprofit sustainable materials management.

46 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall investigate and study the conditions, needs,
47 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto. Specifically, the committee
48 shall:

49 (A) Investigate the waste stream created on state properties;

50 (B) Characterize the waste created on state properties;

51 (C) Evaluate recycling and waste output practices on state properties;

52 (D) Investigate how to provide strategic support for education and outreach and metrics
53 and data collection of contamination in the recycling stream;

54 (E) Study alternative waste management methods for state properties;

55 (F) Study the possibility of creating a robust recovered materials management program
56 on state properties; and

57 (G) Recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or
58 appropriate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

83 (6) **Report.**

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

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

91 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
92 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
93 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
94 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

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

98 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.