

## House Resolution 916

By: Representatives Dukes of the 154<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 65<sup>th</sup>, Wilkerson of the 38<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 128<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee for the Expansion and National Competitiveness of  
2 Georgia Agriculture; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia consistently ranks first in the nation's production of poultry and eggs  
4 and is also a top producer of peanuts, pecans, tobacco, blueberries, and peaches; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia also grows, but is not yet a national leader, in a wide variety of other  
6 crops, including apples, berries, cabbage, corn, cottonseed, cucumbers, grapes, hay, oats,  
7 onions, peaches, rye, sorghum grain, soybeans, tobacco, tomatoes, vegetables, and wheat,  
8 ornamentals, turf grass, and other nursery and greenhouse commodities, beef cattle, dairy  
9 cows, hogs, meat goats and sheep, and honeybees; and

10 WHEREAS, the national cannabis industry is worth \$61 billion, a number that continues to  
11 grow exponentially as other states move to legalize, regulate, and tax medical and  
12 recreational uses of marijuana; and

13 WHEREAS, one in seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry, or related fields; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2012, there were 42,257 farms in Georgia encompassing 9,620,836 acres of  
15 land, 88 percent of which are considered to be small businesses in terms of annual sales; and

16 WHEREAS, the state accounts for 2 percent of total U.S. agricultural sales; and

17 WHEREAS, the growth of Georgia's share in the national agricultural market would cause  
18 tremendous benefits to some of the state's most vital and vulnerable businesses and citizens;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, with the right direction, resources, and education, Georgia has the capacity to  
21 increase its market share and become a national leader in many crops.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 GEORGIA:

24 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee for  
25 the Expansion and National Competitiveness of Georgia Agriculture.

26 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of ten members as  
27 follows:

28 (A) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the  
29 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
30 members as cochairperson; and

31 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate as members  
32 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

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

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

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

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

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

50 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

- 62 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk  
63 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes  
64 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 65 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.