

Senate Resolution 318

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Gooch of the 51st, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th and Watson of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Commission on Freight, Innovation, and Logistics; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the current and future economic health of Georgia relies on a thriving and
4 productive freight industry; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia needs a comprehensive, strategic business plan to develop state-wide
6 freight and logistics infrastructure in order for this state to remain economically competitive
7 and to remain a leader in innovation related to logistics; and

8 WHEREAS, it is important to study and assess the needs for and means of providing for a
9 system of freight, innovation, and logistics investment projects and priorities both within and
10 outside the metro Atlanta area; and

11 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the best course of action with regard to funding
12 and policy development relating to freight and logistics to ensure that action taken over the
13 next several years will result in the growth and support of this important industry; and

14 WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasize creating efficiency and
15 coordination among providers of freight, innovation, and logistics in an effort to offer
16 solutions to improve mobility and to ensure the creation of appropriate educational and
17 vocational programs to meet the future needs of this state; and

18 WHEREAS, such study may analyze the benefits of developing alternative freight routes as
19 a means of improving regional transportation and transportation throughout this state; and

20 WHEREAS, subject to availability of funds from the budget of the Senate, such study may
21 include a contract for the provision of private consulting and any other services deemed
22 necessary for purposes of addressing the areas identified in this resolution; and

23 WHEREAS, any professionals retained to assist in analysis or consultation pursuant to this
 24 resolution shall be professionals in freight and logistics analysis, with global or national
 25 prominence in the following areas:

- 26 (1) Experience working with multiple freight and logistics providers;
- 27 (2) Experience delivering freight and logistics strategy for multijurisdictional or
 28 state-wide entities;
- 29 (3) Strong financial consulting practices that have applicability to multiple funding or
 30 financial approaches for freight and logistics;
- 31 (4) Approaches to promoting economic development; and
- 32 (5) Demonstrated knowledge and proven experience in strategic development.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

- 34 (1) **Creation of commission.** There is created the Senate Commission on Freight,
 35 Innovation, and Logistics.
- 36 (2) **Members and officers.** The commission shall consist of the following members:
 37 (A) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
 38 the chairperson of the Senate Transportation Committee;
- 39 (B) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who represent entities
 40 which provide freight and logistics services or possess expertise in the operations of a
 41 major airport hub;
- 42 (C) Two members who are residents of this state appointed by the President of the
 43 Senate;
- 44 (D) The executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association;
- 45 (E) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia;
- 46 (F) The chairperson of the Georgia Association of Metropolitan Planning
 47 Organizations;
- 48 (G) The commissioner of transportation, ex officio; and
- 49 (H) The executive director of the Georgia Ports Authority, ex officio.

50 The chairperson of the Senate Transportation Committee shall serve as chairperson of the
 51 commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

78 **(6) Report.**

79 (A) In the event the commission adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
80 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
81 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
82 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

83 (B) In the event the commission adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
84 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
85 of this paragraph.

86 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
87 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the
88 commission. A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the
89 commission and filed with the Secretary of the Senate.

90 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
91 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the commission in lieu thereof.

92 **(7) Abolishment.** The commission shall submit the report and proposal required by
93 paragraph (6) not later than December 31, 2019, at which time such proposal shall be
94 published and the commission shall stand abolished.