

## Senate Resolution 433

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Cowser of the 46th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Robertson of the 29th and Watson of the 1st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Reducing Georgia's Cost of Doing Business Study Committee; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has been ranked the number one state to do business for six years in  
4 a row by *Site Selection Magazine*; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia must continue to be at the forefront in creating a business friendly  
6 environment; and

7 WHEREAS, the rising costs of goods and services threaten families, small and large  
8 businesses, economic development, and all Georgia consumers; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia has some of the highest auto insurance rates in the nation, which not  
10 only hurts individuals, but any industry that has extensive fleet and commercial vehicle  
11 operations; and

12 WHEREAS, rural healthcare providers face an ongoing financial crisis, threatening access  
13 to all patients in their communities; and

14 WHEREAS, healthcare costs continue to increase due in part to the practice of defensive  
15 medicine; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks 40th in the state lawsuit climate report published by the Institute  
17 for Legal Reform; and

18 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to fully review and study the issue of Georgia's  
19 legal climate and its impact on the cost of doing business and performing healthcare services  
20 in Georgia.

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

22 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Reducing  
23 Georgia's Cost of Doing Business Study Committee.

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

25 (A) The committee shall be composed of 15 members to be appointed by the  
26 Lieutenant Governor as follows:

27 (i) The chairperson of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee;

28 (ii) Five members of the Senate of whom at least one member will have a  
29 professional background in healthcare, at least two members will be an attorney and  
30 at least one member shall be appointed from the minority party;

31 (iii) A citizen representative who is a member of the Georgians First Commission;

32 (iv) A citizen representative who is a small business owner, in consultation with the  
33 state director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses;

34 (v) A citizen representative who works in the agriculture industry;

35 (vi) A citizen representative who works in the forestry industry, in consultation with  
36 the Georgia Forestry Association;

37 (vii) A citizen representative who is licensed to practice medicine in the State of  
38 Georgia and is currently practicing as a physician, in consultation with the Medical  
39 Association of Georgia;

40 (viii) A citizen representative who works in the property and casualty insurance  
41 industry;

42 (ix) A citizen representative who works in the medical malpractice insurance  
43 industry;

44 (x) A citizen representative who is admitted to practice law in the State of Georgia  
45 and who predominantly represents defendants in tort liability cases in their practice;  
46 and

47 (xi) A citizen representative who is admitted to practice law in the State of Georgia  
48 and who predominantly represents plaintiffs in tort liability cases in their practice.

49 (B) The chairperson of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee shall  
50 serve as chairperson of the committee.

51 (C) The committee may establish various subcommittees with subject matter expertise  
52 to advise the committee on specific matters, which shall be chaired by a member of the  
53 study committee.

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

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

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

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

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

69 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
70 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
71 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
72 appropriated to the Senate.

73 (6) **Report.**

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

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

81 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
82 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
83 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
84 the Secretary of the Senate.

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

87 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.