

House Resolution 1554

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th, Dickey of the 145th, Corbett of the 174th, Rhodes of the 124th, and Smith of the 138th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Navigable Streams and Related Matters; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's navigable streams are a precious resource of this state and serve as
4 a valuable asset to owners of adjacent properties and as a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts; and

5 WHEREAS, identifying which of the state's streams constitute navigable streams is a
6 challenging endeavor both legally and factually; and

7 WHEREAS, a greater degree of certainty regarding the interaction of the various rights
8 related to navigable streams, as to which streams constitute navigable streams, and for what
9 purposes and under what circumstances they may be used is desirable; and

10 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives should carefully evaluate all aspects of navigable
11 streams in this state and the complex issues surrounding their ownership, private and public
12 rights of use, and other related matters.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

14 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
15 on Navigable Streams and Related Matters.

16 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members as
17 follows:

18 (A) The chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources and the
19 Environment, who shall serve as the chairperson;

20 (B) Up to four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House of Representatives;

22 (C) The Majority Whip of the House of Representatives; and

23 (D) An attorney at law licensed in this state and with experience with water rights and
24 property rights, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

62 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.