

Senate Resolution 26

By: Senator Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint House and Senate Coastal Greenway Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia coast is one of the finest tourist attractions in the State of Georgia,
4 with many historic sites, popular outdoor recreation areas, and many local, state, and
5 federally owned attractions including state parks and historic sites, wildlife areas, beaches,
6 and outstanding scenic areas and vistas; and

7 WHEREAS, bicycling, walking, hiking, and jogging are healthful exercises as well as
8 wholesome forms of outdoor recreation suitable for families of all ages; and

9 WHEREAS, providing alternative means of transportation helps alleviate automobile traffic
10 and air pollution and provides another choice for commuting to work or play for all ages and
11 income groups in our state; and

12 WHEREAS, facilities for such activities can also be designed for use by handicapped
13 individuals who would not otherwise be able to travel on roads and highways; and

14 WHEREAS, it has been proposed to create a separate paved trail on city and county owned
15 rights of way and the state owned right of way of U.S. 17 and Georgia Highway 99 from
16 Savannah to St. Marys to be known as the Coastal Georgia Greenway; and

17 WHEREAS, such trail would lie wholly within the Gullah Geechee National Heritage
18 Corridor and the entire Altamaha Scenic Byway, most of the Colonial Coast Birding Trail
19 and most of Georgia Bike Route 95, and part of Georgia Bike Routes 10, 35, and 40; and

20 WHEREAS, such trail would link over 115,860 acres of existing wildlife preserves, natural
21 areas, parks, and 12 National Historic Landmark Districts in coastal Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, such trail would be a part of the proposed East Coast Greenway from Calais,
23 Maine, to Key West, Florida.

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

26 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint House and Senate
27 Coastal Greenway Study Committee.

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

29 (A) The committee shall be composed of 13 members.

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

32 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
33 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
34 members as cochairperson.

35 (D) Additional members shall include the Commissioner of the Department of
36 Transportation or his designee, the Commissioner of Natural Resources or his designee,
37 the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs or his designee, the
38 Director of the Department of Economic Development, and the Executive Director of
39 the Coastal Georgia Greenway.

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

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

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

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

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

55 (C) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
56 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
57 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come

58 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives; except that
59 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
60 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
61 available to their respective agencies.

62 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

77 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.