

Senate Resolution 283

By: Senators Jones II of the 22nd, Rahman of the 5th and Rhett of the 33rd

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Improving Access to Healthy Foods and Ending Food Deserts Study
2 Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, over two million Georgians, including 500,000 children, live in communities
4 that lack access to affordable fruits, vegetables, and other foods that contribute to a healthy
5 diet; and

6 WHEREAS, areas which lack access to affordable fruits, vegetables, and other foods that
7 contribute to a healthy diet are called food deserts; and

8 WHEREAS, food deserts occur in both rural and urban communities; and

9 WHEREAS, food deserts are primarily located in low-income communities; and

10 WHEREAS, grocery stores are reluctant to locate in low-income communities; and

11 WHEREAS, rural areas face food deserts because of income levels but also because of the
12 unique challenges in remote living; and

13 WHEREAS, all citizens of this state should have access to foods that are both affordable and
14 healthy; and

15 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine policy and legislative prescriptions for improving
16 access to healthy foods and ending food deserts.

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

18 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Improving Access
19 to Healthy Foods and Ending Food Deserts Study Committee.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
21 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
22 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

23 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake to:

24 (A) Determine how many Georgians live in food deserts and where food deserts are
25 located;

26 (B) Examine local, state, and national policies which address food deserts;

27 (C) Examine the economic impact food deserts have on this state's economy;

28 (D) Examine any changes that should be made to this state's tax and economic policies
29 to combat food deserts; and

30 (E) Examine how this state can assist local governments as they attempt to eradicate
31 food deserts.

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

36 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

39 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
40 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
41 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
42 appropriated to the Senate.

43 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

57 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.