

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 223
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study issues associated with improving citizen participation in environmental decisions made by the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, members of the 100th General Assembly have questions and concerns about the issues of public notice, public hearings, citizen and citizen organization appeals to regulatory boards, and citizen and citizen group complaints involving environmental decisions made by the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has differing statutes and policies with regard to citizen participation across different state environmental programs; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable debate about and interpretation of the current regulations and departmental policies of the State's Department of Environment and Conservation and its environmental regulatory boards with regard to citizen and citizen group involvement in environmental decisions; and

WHEREAS, these timely issues directly affect the health, property and quality of life of all Tennesseans, and such issues should be carefully and exhaustively studied by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study issues

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associated with improving citizen participation in environmental decisions made by the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in its deliberations, the special joint committee shall consider all feasible ways and means to ensure that the citizens of Tennessee have adequate opportunity to participate in the environmental decisions that affect their health, their property and the quality of their lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be composed of two (2) members of the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee and one (1) at-large member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate, and two (2) members of the House Conservation and Environment Committee and one (1) at-large member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the Chair of the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee, the Chair of the House Conservation and Environment Committee and to the full One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than January 15, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.