

Senate Resolution 820

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Spirits Tastings; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Inc. (DISCUS) is a national  
3 trade association representing producers and marketers of distilled spirits sold in the United  
4 States; and

5 WHEREAS, the consumption of beverage alcohol products has played an accepted and  
6 important role in the cultural and social tradition of our society, and DISCUS members take  
7 special pride in their products and their commitment to promoting responsible consumption  
8 by those adults who choose to drink; and

9 WHEREAS, DISCUS has endorsed the concept of permitting distilled spirits tastings in retail  
10 liquor stores; and

11 WHEREAS, a majority of states permit some form of distilled spirits tastings at on-premise  
12 establishments such as bars and restaurants or in retail stores that sell spirits for off-premise  
13 consumption; and

14 WHEREAS, there are tastings laws on the books of 35 states, and seven states have passed  
15 distilled spirits tastings laws in the past two years, including Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky,  
16 Arizona, Michigan, Alabama, and New York; and

17 WHEREAS, these tastings laws allow adult consumers to sample distilled spirits products  
18 at preplanned tastings events in designated tasting areas of retail stores; and

19 WHEREAS, the spirits industry in Georgia is a tremendous source of tax revenue and is  
20 closely regulated by the Georgia Department of Revenue.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
2 Study Committee on Spirits Tastings to be composed of five members to be appointed by the  
3 President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate a member of the  
4 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the  
5 committee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
7 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action  
8 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
9 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
10 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
11 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
12 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative  
13 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are  
14 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
15 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its  
16 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report  
17 shall be made on or before December 31, 2002. The committee shall stand abolished on  
18 December 31, 2002.