

House Resolution 1492

By: Representatives Coleman of the 142nd, Parham of the 122nd, Twiggs of the 8th, Porter of the 143rd, McKinney of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House State Law Enforcement Officers' Advocate Study Committee; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, noncommissioned law enforcement officers of the Georgia State Patrol, the
4 Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of
5 Corrections, the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety, the Department of Natural Resources,
6 and other state agencies charged with law enforcement duties provide critical services to the
7 State of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, the duties of these officers often involve making split second decisions which
9 can have far-reaching consequences to the public, the state, and the officers; and

10 WHEREAS, the duties of these officers can sometimes require them to take actions which
11 are not popular with those they have to arrest or cite and which can sometimes lead to false
12 charges being brought against the officers; and

13 WHEREAS, a thorough study should be undertaken to determine the need for, feasibility of,
14 and details concerning the creation of the position of state law enforcement officers'
15 advocate in each such department and agency with the duty of representing the interests and
16 rights of such noncommissioned officers who have been charged with any noncriminal
17 offense or violation in which they might be subject to reduction in pay by more than one pay
18 grade, reduction in rank, or dismissal from their jobs.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 there is created the House State Law Enforcement Officers' Advocate Study Committee to
21 be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
23 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall
24 call all meetings of the committee.

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