

House Resolution 1594

By: Representatives Orrock of the 56th, Holmes of the 53rd, Randall of the 127th, Brooks of the 54th, Benfield of the 67th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Death Penalty; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, examining problems with the application of the death penalty is in the best
3 interest of all Georgians, regardless of their position on capital punishment; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the death penalty is the ultimate punishment that the State of Georgia, on behalf
5 of its citizens, can impose upon a person; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the taking of a human life by the state is an irreversible punishment which
7 should leave no room for error as to the guilt of the defendant; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Georgia's system for providing indigent defense is being examined by a Blue
9 Ribbon commission, and reports have indicated that insufficient funds are available to afford
10 criminal defendants facing the death penalty an adequate defense; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the American Bar Association maintains that the administration of the death
12 penalty is "a haphazard maze of unfair practices with no internal consistency" and has called
13 for a moratorium on executions.
- 14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
15 there is created the House Study Committee on the Death Penalty to be composed of five
16 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall
17 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall
18 call all meetings of the committee.
- 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
20 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
21 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
22 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

1 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
2 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
3 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
4 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
5 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
6 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
7 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
8 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2002. The committee
9 shall stand abolished on December 1, 2002.