

Senate Resolution 445

By: Senator Hamrick of the 30<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Sentences Served for Felony Offenses; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgians have serious and abiding concerns regarding their vulnerability to  
4 violent crime; and

5 WHEREAS, victims of crime often request and expect long sentences for offenders  
6 convicted of violent crimes and other felonies; and

7 WHEREAS, severe sentences meted out to convicted felons may be significantly reduced  
8 by parole or early release administered by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles or by  
9 earned time, early release, work release, leave, or other sentence-reducing measures under  
10 programs administered by the Department of Corrections.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
12 Study Committee on Sentences Served for Felony Offenses to be composed of five members  
13 of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall  
14 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall  
15 call all meetings of the committee.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
17 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
18 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall  
19 study the average length of sentence currently served by persons convicted of felony offenses  
20 and the average length of sentence currently served by persons convicted of any of the  
21 following offenses: criminal attempt to commit murder, voluntary manslaughter, felony  
22 involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, aggravated assault against a peace officer,  
23 aggravated battery, aggravated battery against a peace officer, hijacking a motor vehicle,  
24 cruelty to children in the first degree, feticide, aggravated stalking, attempted rape, statutory

1 rape, child molestation, enticing a child for indecent purposes, incest, robbery, bus hijacking,  
2 and vehicular homicide. The committee shall study the availability of space in the state's  
3 correctional institutions and the cost of implementing a plan to require persons convicted of  
4 felonies to serve a specific portion of the sentence imposed before release. The committee  
5 shall study the impact of early release of convicted felons on the public confidence in the  
6 criminal justice system. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at  
7 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and  
8 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this  
9 resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for  
10 legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more  
11 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the  
12 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the  
13 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions  
14 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2001.  
15 The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2001.