

Senate Resolution 822

By: Senators Zamarripa of the 36th, Moody of the 27th, Collins of the 6th, Clay of the 37th, Levetan of the 40th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Aging and Developmental Disabilities; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Aging and Developmental Disabilities Coalition has worked since the
4 beginning of the year 2000 to educate and raise the consciousness of persons with
5 developmental disabilities and their families, providers, and communities about the issues
6 relating to aging and developmental disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, all Georgia citizens are living longer, with the life span for persons with
8 developmental disabilities being 20 years of age in 1900 and increasing to 66 years of age
9 in the year 2000; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia desires to be proactive in addressing the needs of our growing
11 population of aging individuals with and without developmental disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, persons with developmental disabilities often experience the process of aging
13 earlier than others in the general population and find themselves ineligible for necessary
14 supports due to their age; and

15 WHEREAS, difficulties currently exist for caregivers, families, and persons with
16 developmental disabilities in accessing information and services carried out by stable,
17 well-trained, long-term care staff in the two networks of aging and developmental
18 disabilities; and

19 WHEREAS, meeting the needs of persons with developmental disabilities who are aging will
20 require a collaboration between all stakeholders, including persons with developmental
21 disabilities and their families, providers, and communities; and

1 WHEREAS, the examination of current barriers in the existing system that prevent transition
2 through the stages of life without disruption of services, support, and funding for aging
3 persons and persons with developmental disabilities will help Georgia better address the
4 needs of such persons.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
6 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Aging and Developmental
7 Disabilities to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed
8 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and five members of the Senate to be
9 appointed by the Senate Committee on Assignments. The Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives shall designate a member of the House and the Senate Committee on
11 Assignments shall designate a member of the Senate who shall serve as cochairpersons of
12 the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this initiative shall be called "Aging for All."

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
15 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
16 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
17 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
18 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
19 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
20 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
21 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
22 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
23 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate. The committee shall
24 make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation
25 or administrative action, and present them to the Governor and the appropriate legislative
26 committees on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished on
27 December 31, 2004.