

Senate Resolution 961

By: Senators Thompson of the 33rd and Brown of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Blue Ribbon Study Commission on Tort Reform; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, tort reform is a subject which encompasses critical issues of concern to and
3 affecting many Georgians and which warrants thorough consideration by the General
4 Assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, while the call for legislative measures that institute meaningful tort reform
6 relating to such issues as limitations on tort damages and curtailing medical malpractice
7 insurance rates is strong and recurrent, there exists no thorough, comprehensive legislative
8 study of this matter; and

9 WHEREAS, there exists a need for an in-depth review and study of the current and future
10 status of Georgia's tort system prior to any legislative action on this subject.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
12 Blue Ribbon Study Commission on Tort Reform to be composed of four members of the
13 Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; four members of the general public to
14 be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, none of whom shall be affiliated in any way with
15 the medical profession, the legal profession, or the insurance industry; and a justice of the
16 Georgia Supreme Court to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor at the discretion of such
17 justice. The Lieutenant Governor shall designate a member of the commission as
18 chairperson of the commission. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the commission.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the
20 conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to the state's tort system and recommend any
21 actions or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate. The
22 commission shall conduct such meetings at the state capitol at such times as it may deem
23 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
24 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the

1 commission shall receive no compensation and no reimbursement of expenses for their
2 service on the commission. The commission shall meet for not more than eight days unless
3 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
4 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the commission
5 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
6 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2004. The
7 commission shall stand abolished on December 31, 2004.