

## Senate Resolution 997

By: Senator Meyer von Bremen of the 12th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Septage Disposal Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, there are approximately 2 million active individual on-site waste-water  
3 treatment systems or septic tanks located in the State of Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, to maintain the environmental integrity of those systems, they should be  
5 pumped out on a regular basis; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has recognized that these  
7 systems are a viable cost effective and long-term option for meeting public health and water  
8 quality goals, particularly in less densely populated areas as in a great part of Georgia when  
9 they are adequately managed; and
- 10 WHEREAS, there are some areas in Georgia that do not provide a facility for the disposal  
11 of septage; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the individuals and companies engaged in the business of pumping out these  
13 systems may not have reasonable options for the disposal of this septage; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in many instances, there may be problems of disposing of septage in creeks,  
15 streams, rivers, and on unimproved land if other facilities are not made available; and
- 16 WHEREAS, this is a significant problem that has the potential to be a major health and  
17 environmental hazard if it is not addressed in the very near future.
- 18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
19 Septage Disposal Study Committee to be composed of 12 members. The Senate Committee  
20 on Assignments shall appoint three members of the Senate Natural Resources and the  
21 Environment Committee and three members of the Senate State and Local Governmental

1 Operations Committee as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
2 members as chairperson. In addition to the six legislative members, the study committee  
3 shall also include one representative from the Association County Commissioners of  
4 Georgia, one representative from the Georgia Municipal Association, one representative from  
5 the Georgia Onsite Wastewater Association, one representative from the Environmental  
6 Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, one representative from the  
7 Public Health Division of the Department of Human Resources, and one representative from  
8 a nonprofit environmental organization, all of whom shall be appointed by the presidents,  
9 directors, or commissioners of their respective organizations. The chairperson shall call all  
10 meetings of the committee.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
12 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
13 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
14 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
15 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
16 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the  
17 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official  
18 Code of Georgia Annotated. Members of the committee who are state officials, other than  
19 legislative members, and state employees shall receive no compensation for their services  
20 on the committee, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the  
21 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are  
22 reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees. The funds  
23 necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative  
24 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available  
25 to their respective departments. Except as otherwise provided in this resolution, all funds  
26 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated  
27 to the Senate. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be  
28 received by any member of the committee for more than three days unless additional days  
29 are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and  
30 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be  
31 made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished on December  
32 31, 2004.