

Senate Resolution 1067

By: Senator Schaefer of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Prevention of the Starvation and Dehydration
2 of Persons with Disabilities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, tragic situations occur where a family member or members are called upon to
4 make a critical decision for a loved one concerning whether to continue or discontinue
5 life-sustaining nutrition or hydration or both for the loved one; and

6 WHEREAS, the law provides for the utilization of an advance directive for an individual to
7 provide guidance and requirements prior to their incapacity as to the wishes of the individual
8 relating to life-sustaining measures; and

9 WHEREAS, many people have not or do not wish to execute such advance directives, and
10 therefore their next of kin is required to make such a decision; and

11 WHEREAS, in making decisions concerning whether to continue or discontinue
12 life-sustaining nutrition or hydration or both for an incapacitated individual, if there are no
13 advance directives or indications made by the individual prior to their incapacity, the next
14 of kin should generally favor decisions which will sustain the life of the individual; and

15 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to assess current state and federal law to determine
16 whether these situations can be mitigated and to determine whether any legislation should
17 be recommended.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
19 Study Committee on the Prevention of the Starvation and Dehydration of Persons with
20 Disabilities to be composed of three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate
21 Committee on Assignments. The Senate Committee on Assignments shall designate a
22 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
23 meetings of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the issues
2 discussed above and other related matters and recommend any action or legislation which
3 the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings
4 at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to
5 exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives
6 and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances
7 provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The
8 allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
9 committee for more than three days unless additional days are authorized. The funds
10 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
11 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
12 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
13 made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand abolished on December
14 31, 2006.