

Senate Resolution 819

By: Senators Seabaugh of the 28th, Murphy of the 27th, Rogers of the 21st, Hudgens of the 47th, Moody of the 56th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Comprehensive Firearms Law Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, current Georgia laws applicable to the carrying of firearms are extensive,
3 complex, ambiguous, scattered in various provisions of the Official Code of Georgia
4 Annotated, and frequently produce unintended results and confusion among Georgians who
5 carry firearms, law enforcement officers, and the courts; and
- 6 WHEREAS, firearms laws affect not only Georgia's 300,000 firearms license holders but
7 many other law-abiding residents of this state who exercise their constitutional right to keep
8 and bear arms under both the state and United States Constitutions, and the degree of
9 infringement of this constitutional right is important to many Georgia citizens; and
- 10 WHEREAS, there has not been in the past decade or longer a formal or comprehensive study
11 of firearms laws in Georgia for the purpose of making consistent and equitable
12 recommendations for changes to these statutory provisions; and
- 13 WHEREAS, applicable penalties for violations of these laws may constitute felonies with
14 punishments of up to 20 years in prison and a \$15,000.00 fine; and
- 15 WHEREAS, many questions and concerns have been raised by Georgia citizens related to
16 the application of firearms laws, mandating a close reexamination of Georgia's firearms
17 laws; and
- 18 WHEREAS, many prominent associations in Georgia have developed quality
19 recommendations for improvements in Georgia's firearms laws; and
- 20 WHEREAS, in light of the above, it is now time to closely scrutinize and improve Georgia's
21 firearms laws.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
2 Comprehensive Firearms Law Study Committee to be composed of five members of the
3 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall
4 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall
5 call all meetings of the committee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of Georgia's
7 firearms laws generally and the application of these laws to Georgia's peaceable and
8 law-abiding citizens to ensure that constitutional rights, the right of self-defense, and public
9 safety are properly protected and that persons involved in the firearms licensing process are
10 treated fairly and equitably. The committee shall make recommendations for changes in
11 legislation and shall provide copies of proposed legislation to be prepared by the Office of
12 Legislative Counsel and shall recommend any other action or make such report which the
13 study committee deems appropriate.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
15 needs, and issues mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
16 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 provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
21 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
22 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
23 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
24 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
25 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
26 made on or before January 31, 2009, at which time the committee shall stand abolished.