

Senate Resolution 1020

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Johnson of the 1st, Williams of the 19th, Seabaugh of the 28th and Moody of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Sexual Exploitation of Minors Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, across the State of Georgia, children are being forced to engage in prostitution, escort services, stripping, pornography, and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Georgia, especially the metropolitan Atlanta area, has become a hub for child sexual exploitation, with children trafficked from around the state, from other states, and from other countries; and
- 8 WHEREAS, children between the ages of 11 and 16, but as young as ten, are being marketed to adults for sex; and
- 10 WHEREAS, victims of commercial sexual exploitation often suffer extreme conflicts in the home, parental neglect, physical or sexual abuse, homelessness, poverty, housing instability, educational failure, emotional problems, running away, and other social ills that lead to their recruitment into prostitution; and
- 14 WHEREAS, children who are commercially sexually exploited often become victims of rape, assault, robbery, and murder and are at greater risk for drug and alcohol abuse, depression, suicide attempts, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychiatric disorders, developmental and social delays, unplanned pregnancy, and sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV infection; and
- 19 WHEREAS, children who miss or drop out of school and become victimized through commercial sexual exploitation are likely to need intensive counseling and other public social services well into adulthood.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
2 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors Study Committee to be composed of five
3 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate
4 shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings
5 of the committee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
7 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
8 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
9 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
10 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
11 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. In conducting such study, the
12 committee may study current law and policy in Georgia and other states and may elicit views
13 from experts in the fields of child welfare, juvenile justice, social work, mental health, and
14 public health as well as input from child victims and adult survivors of commercial sexual
15 exploitation. The committee may examine recent policy and social science reports on child
16 commercial sexual exploitation, including, but not limited to, its effect on child well-being
17 and community safety. Also, the committee may review services that are currently available
18 to this population in Georgia, as well as best practices for serving commercially sexually
19 exploited children from other jurisdictions. The members of the committee shall receive the
20 allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
21 All funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
22 appropriated to the Senate. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be
23 received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
24 authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations,
25 with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before
26 December 1, 2008. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2008.