

Senate Resolution 1244

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Harp of the 29th, Stoner of the 6th, Fort of the 39th, Hooks of the 14th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Accessibility Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the 2000 United States Census stated that more than 600,000 individuals in
3 Georgia have physical disabilities, not including those persons residing in institutions; and
- 4 WHEREAS, there were 3/4 million individuals over age 65 living in Georgia in 2000; this
5 population is projected to reach nearly 2 million by 2030, and many of these individuals will
6 experience mobility impairment in their lifetime; and
- 7 WHEREAS, accessibility renovation is costly, and additionally, many Georgians must enter
8 assisted living facilities because they cannot return to their own inaccessible homes after
9 hospitalization; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the majority of new houses built today are not accessible to individuals with
11 significant mobility impairments, and such houses impose barriers to individuals within their
12 own homes and also between these individuals and their communities; and
- 13 WHEREAS, recent research has shown that a minimum of one in four houses will at some
14 time have a resident with severe, long-term mobility impairment; and
- 15 WHEREAS, advocates assert that minor adjustments to new home designs would allow
16 individuals with mobility impairments to enjoy access to the homes of their friends and
17 extended family as well as reducing the need for costly renovations in the future, and such
18 advocates propose mandates to bring about these adjustments; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the homebuilding industry is experiencing a serious loss of revenue at this time
20 due to a steep decline in new housing starts; and

1 WHEREAS, the Georgia homebuilding trade groups support voluntary responses to meet the
2 need for home access but in general oppose mandates to achieve this goal; and

3 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for those who advocate for construction mandates and
4 those who oppose such mandates to reach mutually agreeable legislative solutions; and

5 WHEREAS, it is important for the Senate to receive and consider information relating to the
6 issue of a basic level of accessibility in new homes.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
8 Accessibility Study Committee to be composed of five members of the Senate to be
9 appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a member of the
10 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
11 committee.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
13 needs, and issues mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
14 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
15 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
16 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
17 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
18 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
19 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
20 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
21 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
22 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
23 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
24 made on or before December 1, 2008. The committee shall stand abolished on December
25 1, 2008.