

Senate Resolution 820

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd and Tolleson of the 20th

AS PASSED

A RESOLUTION

Creating the Joint Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Study Committee; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources law enforcement responsibilities are critical to public safety, homeland security, and protection of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, that law enforcement responsibility of the department is divided into two categories, one established in Code Section 27-1-16, relating to conservation rangers, and one established in Code Section 27-1-17, relating to the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to appoint deputy conservation rangers; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to review the laws relating to the Department of Natural Resources law enforcement to determine whether any reform, revision, or modernization of such laws is necessary and appropriate so as to better fulfill the purposes of such laws and the public safety, homeland security, and natural resource protection needs of this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Study Committee to be composed of ten members as follows: five members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the Senate Public Safety Committee who shall serve as cochairperson of the committee and one of whom shall be the chairperson of the Senate Veterans Affairs, Military and Homeland Security Committee; and five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the House Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security who shall serve as cochairperson of the committee. The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action

or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. All funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2008. The committee shall stand abolished on January 1, 2009.