

Senate Resolution 57

By: Senator Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Georgia Vulnerable Adult Study Commission; to provide for the membership,
2 duties, and operation of the commission; to provide for related matters; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has recognized that many citizens of this state,
5 because of their age or because of serious and persistent mental illness, degenerative brain
6 disorders, developmental or physical disabilities, or other similar incapacities, are in need of
7 emergency protective placement should they become the victim of abuse, neglect, or
8 exploitation; and

9 WHEREAS, the lack of emergency protective placement for victims of abuse who are
10 elderly or adults with disabilities is a nation-wide issue and was identified as a problem in
11 Georgia as early as 1993 by a Senate study group, the Senate Elder Abuse Task Force; and

12 WHEREAS, the Senate Elder Abuse Task Force discovered that there is an intense need in
13 Georgia to establish a comprehensive emergency alternative placement network for abused
14 elderly citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, the task force also found that in Georgia there are no specialized shelters that
16 provide services for victims of elderly or disabled adult abuse who need safe shelter; and

17 WHEREAS, the task force recommended that a resolution be introduced urging private
18 organizations, such as civic clubs, to provide funding for emergency intervention and
19 placement of the elderly; and

20 WHEREAS, due to the growth of the population of those over the age of 65 and disabled
21 adults in the past several decades, the increased need for emergency placement is reaching
22 epic proportions; and

23 WHEREAS, the absence of emergency placement for victims of elderly and disabled adult
24 abuse subjects victims to the ongoing risks associated with abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, it may be necessary to designate emergency beds in certain nursing facilities,
27 to provide certain funding, and to develop policies to streamline admission procedures for
28 temporary emergency placement of victims of elderly and disabled adult abuse in long-term
29 care facilities with available beds; and

30 WHEREAS, there is a need to develop emergency protective placement that allows the
31 individual the same rights as other citizens and at the same time protect the individual from
32 financial exploitation, abuse, neglect, and self-neglect; and

33 WHEREAS, statistical data and information regarding the exact nature and extent of this
34 problem needs to be presented to the General Assembly and studied so that policies, plans,
35 and funding may be explored, developed, and studied.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
37 GEORGIA that there is created the Georgia Vulnerable Adult Study Commission to be
38 composed of six members, three members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
39 Representatives and three members to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The
40 Speaker shall designate one of the House members of the committee to be a co-chairperson,
41 and the President shall designate one of the Senate members of the committee to be a
42 co-chairperson of the committee. The co-chairpersons shall call all meetings of the
43 committee.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the issues
45 described above and recommend any actions or legislation which the commission deems
46 necessary or appropriate, including but not limited to suggesting solutions for the creation
47 and development of a plan for emergency placement for victims of elderly or disabled adult
48 abuse. The commission may conduct such meetings and hearings at such places and at such
49 times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively
50 its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
51 The members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section
52 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated but shall receive the same for not more
53 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the
54 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of

55 Representatives and Senate, as appropriate. The commission shall make a report of its
56 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, on or before
57 December 31, 2009. The commission shall stand abolished on December 31, 2009.