

Senate Resolution 399

By: Senator Thomas of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Georgia Nonprofit Organizations and Their
2 Governmental Partnerships; and for other purposes

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has numerous nonprofit entities providing a wide array of goods and
4 services to Georgians; and

5 WHEREAS, 48.2 percent of Georgia cities and 76.5 percent of Georgia counties report that
6 they work side by side with nonprofit organizations to plan or deliver public services; and

7 WHEREAS, 52 percent of nonreligious charitable organizations report that they work with
8 local governments in public-private partnerships; and

9 WHEREAS, 75 percent of the partnerships between local government and nonprofits are in
10 the three broad areas of social, health, and human services; public safety and emergency
11 response; or economic development; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Center for Nonprofits and the University of Georgia recently
13 conducted a study on private philanthropic support in Georgia which reveals that \$1.00 out
14 of every \$9.00 in private foundation dollars is directed outside of metro Atlanta and only
15 \$.25 of that dollar is directed to services while the remaining \$.75 is directed to capital
16 projects; and

17 WHEREAS, over 50 percent of the nonprofits in Georgia report an overall decline in
18 revenues for the first quarter of 2008 of between 10 to 15 percent; operating reserves are
19 down by an average of 30 percent; 60 percent of groups expect further declines over the next
20 three months; 52 percent of the entities reported having less than three months of reserves
21 left; 72 percent of nonprofits report service demands are on the increase, averaging between
22 10 to 60 percent with the average increase at 25 percent; and more than 50 percent report that

23 they will not be able to provide services to the increased demand for more than three months;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, these facts reflect the intersection of state and local governments and the
26 nonprofit sector and their frequent operation as partners or joint venturers; and

27 WHEREAS, these facts also reflect the effects of the economic downturn on Georgia's
28 nonprofit organizations similar to the loss of revenue experienced by state and local
29 governments themselves; and

30 WHEREAS, Georgia needs to study the impact of the economic downturn and survey
31 Georgia nonprofit organizations on the impact of this economic crisis, not only on state and
32 federal government budgets but also on the budgets of Georgia's nonprofit organizations and
33 their ability to provide goods and services in conjunction with governments in the areas of
34 health, welfare, safety, and community services.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is hereby created
36 the Senate Study Committee on Georgia Nonprofit Organizations and Their Governmental
37 Partnerships to be composed of six members of the Senate who shall be appointed by the
38 Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall designate a member of the Senate who
39 shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the
40 chairperson.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
42 needs, issues, and problems as described above and associated with Georgia's nonprofit
43 organizations and their interactions with state and local governments in Georgia and
44 recommend any actions or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
45 The committee shall hear from leaders and executives from various Georgia nonprofit
46 organizations and financial experts including various economists who research these
47 businesses and entities. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at
48 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
49 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
50 resolution. The members of the committee shall receive allowances authorized for legislative
51 members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than three
52 days unless two additional days are authorized by the Lieutenant Governor. The funds
53 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
54 appropriated to the Senate. In the event that the committee makes a report of its findings and

55 recommendations with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made
56 on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31,
57 2009.