

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee offered the following substitute to SR 57:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Vulnerable Adult Study Committee; 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 SENATE that there is created the Senate
37 Vulnerable Adult Study Committee to be composed of six members to be appointed by the
38 President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate one of the Senate
39 members of the committee to be a chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call
40 all meetings of the committee.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the issues
42 described above and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee deems
43 necessary or appropriate, including but not limited to suggesting solutions for the creation
44 and development of a plan for emergency placement for victims of elderly or disabled adult
45 abuse. The committee may conduct such meetings and hearings at such places and at such
46 times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively
47 its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
48 The members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section
49 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated but shall receive the same for not more
50 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the
51 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. The
52 committee shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
53 proposed legislation, if any, on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand
54 abolished on December 31, 2009.