

Senate Resolution 642

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Consolidation of Services for Crime Victims; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, victims of crime suffer short-term and long-term consequences from their
4 experience long after the incident has concluded; and

5 WHEREAS, crime victims include those exposed to domestic violence, sexually exploited
6 minors, and those who have previously been exploited and have agreed to testify against their
7 abuser; and

8 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has an interest in treating crime victims in order to break
9 the cycle of abuse and minimize the costs of health care and social services for victims who
10 go untreated; and

11 WHEREAS, several state agencies in Georgia provide some type of service to victims of
12 crime, but no single agency currently exists with the sole mission of assisting victims of
13 crime; and

14 WHEREAS, a single agency focused solely on providing support to victims of criminal acts
15 would increase the amount of federal funds received by the state to serve victims of crime;
16 would provide consolidation of services available to victims, allowing for more convenient
17 and better quality services; and this single agency would serve as a strong voice in
18 advocating for rights on behalf of crime victims in Georgia; and

19 WHEREAS, research is needed to ascertain what services are currently being provided to
20 crime victims and how these services can be combined and placed in one authority in order
21 to provide crime victims with the best assistance possible; and

22 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the issues and facts related to the provision of
23 services by the State of Georgia to crime victims and how such services can be consolidated
24 is needed to protect the health of Georgia's citizens.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
26 Study Committee on Consolidation of Services for Crime Victims to be composed of five
27 members to be appointed by the President of the Senate who shall designate one member as
28 chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the services
30 currently provided to victims of crime, what agencies are providing said services, and how
31 these services can be consolidated to better serve the crime victims of Georgia. Furthermore,
32 the committee shall recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems
33 necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at
34 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
35 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
36 resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code
37 Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by
38 this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days
39 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
40 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee
41 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
42 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before January 11, 2010. The committee
43 shall stand abolished on January 11, 2010.