

Senate Resolution 399

By: Senator Thomas of the 54th

ADOPTED SENATE

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, over 50 percent of the nonprofits in Georgia report an overall decline in
13 revenues for the first quarter of 2008 of between 10 to 15 percent; operating reserves are
14 down by an average of 30 percent; 60 percent of groups expect further declines over the next
15 three months; 52 percent of the entities reported having less than three months of reserves
16 left; 72 percent of nonprofits report service demands are on the increase, averaging between
17 10 to 60 percent with the average increase at 25 percent; and more than 50 percent report that
18 they will not be able to provide services to the increased demand for more than three months;
19 and

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

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

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

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

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
37 needs, issues, and problems as described above and associated with Georgia's nonprofit
38 organizations and their interactions with state and local governments in Georgia and
39 recommend any actions or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
40 The committee shall hear from leaders and executives from various Georgia nonprofit
41 organizations and financial experts including various economists who research these
42 businesses and entities. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at
43 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
44 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
45 resolution. The members of the committee shall receive allowances authorized for legislative
46 members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than three
47 days unless two additional days are authorized by the Lieutenant Governor. The funds
48 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
49 appropriated to the Senate. In the event that the committee makes a report of its findings and
50 recommendations with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made
51 on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31,
52 2009.