

Senate Resolution 473

By: Senator Seay of the 34th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Bridging the Digital Divide in Aging Communities;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the ability to access and manipulate technology has become a requirement for
4 living in the 21st century; and

5 WHEREAS, many of Georgia's elderly remain powerless to utilize the technologically
6 provided resources available to them due to their lack of understanding about the use of
7 computers and the Internet; and

8 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of this state to ensure that our aging
9 communities have the appropriate level of training for the use of modern technologies and
10 communications devices so that they may better care for their basic individual needs; and

11 WHEREAS, the digital divide between the younger and older generations separates older
12 workers in their ability to find employment; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a need for education in areas of computer and Internet technology
14 among large portions of Georgia's aging populations; and

15 WHEREAS, community living services for the aging are primarily delivered through state
16 agencies and these agencies are able to provide training and education materials regarding
17 the use of technology and access to the Internet; and

18 WHEREAS, our state policymakers realize that the time for bridging the digital divide for
19 Georgia's aging communities is overdue and our state would be best served by a
20 comprehensive and researched study to determine how to best serve the needs of our elderly.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
22 Study Committee on Bridging the Digital Divide in Aging Communities to be composed of
23 five members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be
24 designated as the chairperson. The chairperson shall call the meetings of the committee at
25 such times and locations as he or she shall determine.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall study the conditions, needs, issues,
27 and problems associated with bridging the digital divide in aging communities in Georgia.
28 In conducting such study, the committee shall study aging communities in Georgia and
29 possible solutions utilized by other states and shall elicit views from experts in the field. The
30 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
31 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
32 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the
33 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
34 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than six days unless additional
35 days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall
36 come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event that the committee makes a
37 report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,
38 such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2011. The committee shall stand
39 abolished on December 31, 2011.