

## House Resolution 1151 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Brockway of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Sheldon of the 105<sup>th</sup>, Teasley of the 38<sup>th</sup>, Allison of the 8<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Human Trafficking Study Commission; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is home to numerous victims of human trafficking which  
3 includes those who have been forced into labor and sexual servitude; and
- 4 WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking include both adults and children as well as citizens  
5 from Georgia, other states, and other countries; and
- 6 WHEREAS, according to U.S. State Department data, an estimated 600,000 to 820,000 men,  
7 women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year, and of those,  
8 approximately 80 percent are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors; and
- 9 WHEREAS, studies have estimated that approximately 400 girls are sexually exploited each  
10 month in Georgia, with the average age of initial exploitation being 12 to 14 years of age;  
11 and
- 12 WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has named Atlanta as one of the 14 cities  
13 with the highest incidence of the use of children in prostitution; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has significantly improved its criminal justice system  
15 response to the crime of human trafficking through the passage of HB 200 in the 2011  
16 session of the General Assembly; and
- 17 WHEREAS, although the State of Georgia provides some services for child victims of sexual  
18 exploitation, a comprehensive system of services for all victims of human trafficking is  
19 needed to enable all individuals who have been forced into labor and sexual servitude to  
20 recover from this exploitation; and

21 WHEREAS, experts on human trafficking and victim services should evaluate models of  
22 victim services from other states to recommend an appropriate framework for the State of  
23 Georgia.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
25 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Human Trafficking Study Commission to be  
26 composed of 13 members. The Senate Committee on Assignments shall appoint three  
27 members of the Senate as members of the commission, one of whom shall be a member of  
28 the minority party, and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. The Speaker  
29 of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the House of Representatives  
30 as members of the commission, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and  
31 shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. One member shall be a local police  
32 chief appointed by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. One member shall be a  
33 district attorney appointed by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia.  
34 One member shall be a juvenile court judge appointed by the Council of Juvenile Court  
35 Judges. One member shall be a superior court judge appointed by the Council of Superior  
36 Court Judges of Georgia. One member shall be a public defender appointed by the Georgia  
37 Public Defender Standards Council. One member shall be an individual with expertise in  
38 advocacy for children who are sexually exploited appointed by the Governor's Office for  
39 Children and Families. One member shall be an individual with expertise in advocacy for  
40 adult victims of human trafficking appointed by the Governor's Office for Children and  
41 Families. The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the commission.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the  
43 conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend  
44 any action or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate. In  
45 conducting such study, the commission shall study current law and policy in Georgia and  
46 other states and shall elicit views from experts in the fields of child welfare, juvenile justice,  
47 social work, mental health, and public health as well as input from child victims and adult  
48 survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. The commission shall examine recent policy  
49 and social science reports on human trafficking, including, but not limited to, its effect on  
50 individuals and community safety. The commission shall review services that are currently  
51 available to this population in Georgia, as well as best practices for serving victims of human  
52 trafficking from other jurisdictions. The commission may conduct such meetings at such  
53 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully  
54 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes  
55 of this resolution. Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their

56 services on the commission, and they shall not be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them  
57 in the performance of their duties as members of the commission. In the event the  
58 commission makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for  
59 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2012, and  
60 a copy of the report shall be delivered to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the  
61 Lieutenant Governor. The commission shall stand abolished on January 1, 2013.