

House Resolution 1151 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Brockway of the 101st, Lindsey of the 54th, Sheldon of the 105th, Teasley of the 38th, Allison of the 8th, 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 President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the
27 Senate as members of the commission, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party,
28 and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. The Speaker of the House of
29 Representatives shall appoint three members of the House of Representatives as members
30 of the commission, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and shall designate
31 one of such members as cochairperson. One member shall be a local police chief appointed
32 by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. One member shall be a district attorney
33 appointed by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia. One member shall
34 be a juvenile court judge appointed by the Council of Juvenile Court Judges. One member
35 shall be a superior court judge appointed by the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia.
36 One member shall be a public defender appointed by the Georgia Public Defender Standards
37 Council. One member shall be an individual with expertise in advocacy for children who are
38 sexually exploited appointed by the Governor's Office for Children and Families. One
39 member shall be an individual with expertise in advocacy for adult victims of human
40 trafficking appointed by the Governor's Office for Children and Families. The
41 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.