

Senate Resolution 597

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd and Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Georgia Program Integrity Senate Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that fraud, waste, abuse, and improper payments
3 are pervasive, and often on the rise, in many government programs; and

4 WHEREAS, fraud, waste, abuse, and improper payments can adversely affect the state
5 budget, impede economic development, and deplete benefits intended for citizens in need;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia is currently limited in its ability to address widespread fraud; and

8 WHEREAS, with continual improvements in technology, entities involved in perpetrating
9 fraud and abuse of government programs often work in organized and collusive fraud rings
10 or networks to attack any and all government programs, and inspector generals and program
11 integrity offices need additional tools to address the more sophisticated criminals; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia must take action in order to reduce fraud and save
13 taxpayers money.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the
15 Georgia Program Integrity Senate Study Committee to be composed of five members of the
16 Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the
17 Senate Finance Committee. The chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee shall serve
18 as chairperson of the committee. The committee may elect other officers as deemed
19 necessary. The chairperson may designate and appoint subcommittees from among the
20 membership of the committee as well as appoint other persons to perform such functions as
21 he or she may determine to be necessary and relevant to and consistent with this resolution.
22 The chairperson shall only vote to break a tie. The committee shall meet at the call of the
23 chairperson. A quorum for transacting business shall be two members of the committee.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall study and make recommendations
25 on how the state can better address fraud in government programs by:

26 (1) Studying current capabilities, needs, and limitations in government detection of
27 fraud;

28 (2) Studying efforts by other states to address fraud across multiple government
29 programs;

30 (3) Studying efforts by other states to implement enterprise approaches to reduce waste,
31 fraud, abuse, and improper payments;

32 (4) Studying any limitations in state law that may prevent the sharing of information
33 between state agencies that would present a barrier to fraud detection and prevention;

34 (5) Studying any other necessary issues in relation to fraud detection and prevention as
35 determined by the committee; and

36 (6) Recommending the best manner in which the State of Georgia can address such
37 issues.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct its meetings at such places
39 and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
40 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
41 resolution. Legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for
42 in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances
43 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more
44 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the
45 provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a report of its findings and
47 recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor, with suggestions for proposed
48 legislation or appropriations, if any, on or before October 1, 2013. The committee shall stand
49 abolished on December 31, 2013.