

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to SR 348:

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Georgia Program Integrity Joint 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 GENERAL ASSEMBLY that there is
15 created the Georgia Program Integrity Joint Study Committee to be composed of ten
16 members as follows:
- 17 (1) Three members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, one of whom
18 shall be the chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee;
- 19 (2) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the House Committee
21 on Governmental Affairs;
- 22 (3) Two nonlegislative members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and

23 (4) Two nonlegislative members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives.

25 The chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee and the chairperson of the House
26 Committee on Governmental Affairs shall serve as cochairpersons of the committee. The
27 committee may elect other officers as deemed necessary. The cochairpersons may designate
28 and appoint subcommittees from among the membership of the committee as well as appoint
29 other persons to perform such functions as they may determine to be necessary and relevant
30 to and consistent with this resolution. The cochairpersons shall only vote to break a tie. The
31 committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons. A quorum for transacting business
32 shall be four members of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct its meetings at such places
48 and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
49 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
50 resolution. Legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for
51 in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Members of the
52 committee who are state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall
53 receive no compensation for their services on the committee, but they shall be reimbursed
54 for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the
55 committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state
56 officials or employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state
57 officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds

58 appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments. Citizen members of
59 the committee shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee except for
60 the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees. The allowances
61 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more
62 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary for the
63 reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and state
64 employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective
65 departments. All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall
66 come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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