

Senate Resolution 828

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Emergency Relocation of Abused Adults; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, currently in Georgia, when personal care homes or other residential facilities
4 are closed, there is not a consistent process in place for relocating the residents; and

5 WHEREAS, the lack of such a process hinders agencies involved with the relocation effort
6 in transitioning residents from a substandard, abusive situation to a safe and secure
7 environment appropriate to their needs; and

8 WHEREAS, the crimes of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of at-risk adults in substandard
9 or unlicensed facilities are beginning to receive much needed attention; and

10 WHEREAS, the lack of an identified person in charge of the relocation effort and lack of a
11 formal protocol can mean that all of the needed services may not be readily available during
12 the relocation; and

13 WHEREAS, there has been a significant increase in relocations of at-risk adults from
14 substandard personal care homes over the past year; and

15 WHEREAS, efforts need to be undertaken to protect and ensure the welfare and desires of
16 patients and residents of personal care homes and other residential facilities when such
17 homes and facilities are closed; and

18 WHEREAS, a study is needed of the efforts in relocating adult residents from personal care
19 homes or other residential facilities when such homes or facilities are closed due to
20 substandard and abusive situations to safe and secure environments appropriate to their needs
21 with a focus on designating a lead agency, coordinator, and incident commander with the

22 authority to undertake, direct, and coordinate all participating agencies on the scene of the
23 relocation; and

24 WHEREAS, a study also needs to be undertaken to study legislation that creates a
25 multidisciplinary team to develop a protocol to be deployed every time an emergency
26 relocation of residents is conducted, requires training of personnel, including confidentiality
27 and client sharing information, and provides immunity from liability for the good faith
28 performance of such legislation.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
30 that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Emergency Relocation of Abused Adults
31 to be composed of nine members, three members of the House of Representatives to be
32 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three members of the Senate to
33 be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and three members to be appointed by the
34 Governor. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one of the
35 appointees from the House of Representatives as a cochairperson, and the Lieutenant
36 Governor shall designate one of the appointees from the Senate as a cochairperson. The
37 committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
39 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
40 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
41 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
42 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
43 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. All agencies of the state are
44 directed to provide the committee with such assistance as the committee shall require to
45 perform its assigned duties. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
46 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
47 made on or before December 31, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished on
48 December 31, 2014.