

Senate Resolution 881

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Beach of the 21st, Carter of the 42nd, Thompson of the 14th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Senior Technology Gap Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, according to Pew Research studies, only 54 percent of Americans over age 65
3 have access to the Internet, and among those 77 and older, the proportion drops to about a
4 third; and

5 WHEREAS, two-thirds of seniors surveyed by Accenture said access to health information
6 is important, but only 28 percent have full access to their electronic health records, and
7 almost 60 percent want to e-mail providers, but only 15 percent say they currently have that
8 capability; and

9 WHEREAS, in an era when everything, from personal health records to nursing home quality
10 ratings, is moving on line, and when the best way to stay in touch with grandchildren may
11 involve texting, this amounts to slow progress; and

12 WHEREAS, the technology gap is even greater among seniors on the lower end of the
13 economic scale; and

14 WHEREAS, in order to serve the citizens of Georgia, it is vital that the General Assembly
15 understand the problems seniors face and develop strategies to overcome such problems.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
17 Senior Technology Gap Study Committee to be composed of five members of the Senate
18 appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate one of
19 the appointees to serve as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
20 meetings of the committee.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
22 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions

23 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
24 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
25 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
26 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
27 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
28 committees but shall receive the same for not more than three days unless an additional two
29 days are authorized by the President of the Senate. The funds necessary to carry out the
30 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the
31 event that the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations for proposed
32 legislation, such report shall be made no later than December 31, 2014. The committee shall
33 stand abolished on December 31, 2014.