

Senate Resolution 1192

By: Senator Hill of the 6th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee to Review and Recommend Necessary Changes to the  
2 Georgia Code of Military Justice; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard, which consists of the Georgia Army National  
4 Guard, the Georgia Air National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force, operates under  
5 the supervision of the Georgia Department of Defense and provides ready and relevant  
6 military forces to combatant commanders, supports homeland defense, and performs other  
7 activities, and in doing so, members of the Georgia National Guard serve dual missions in  
8 their federal and state roles; and

9 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard totals over 13,000 members and operates under a  
10 state budget of approximately \$9 million and a federal budget of \$552 million annually; and

11 WHEREAS, although historically the Georgia National Guard's primary function has been  
12 to respond to state emergencies and other exigencies and to prepare for its federal missions,  
13 its operational tempo, both domestic and abroad, has dramatically increased over the last 13  
14 years under both its federal and state status; and

15 WHEREAS, as a result, the Georgia National Guard has converted from a strategic reserve  
16 to an operational force similar to that of its active duty counterparts in which members of the  
17 Georgia National Guard often work side-by-side with active duty members of the United  
18 States Army and the United States Air Force; and

19 WHEREAS, members of the Georgia National Guard fall under the control of the federal  
20 Uniform Code of Military Justice when in federal service; and

21 WHEREAS, although the current Georgia Code of Military Justice was enacted in 1955 and  
22 has not been substantially amended or updated, the culture and demands of military service  
23 in the Georgia National Guard have transformed precipitously; and

24 WHEREAS, although the Georgia Code of Military Justice was, at the time, based on the  
25 federal Uniform Code of Military Justice, the federal Uniform Code of Military Justice has  
26 been substantially revised since 1955; and

27 WHEREAS, recognizing the changing role of the National Guard among the various states  
28 and the differences among the states in their various state codes of military justice and the  
29 possibility that current state military justice codes may be inadequate to ensure and maintain  
30 good order and discipline, the United States Congress required, in accordance with the Bob  
31 Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, the National Guard Bureau  
32 to appoint a working group of National Guard judge advocates and senior military justice  
33 experts to review and develop a Model State Code of Military Justice; and

34 WHEREAS, the National Guard Bureau formed a working group which reviewed the various  
35 state codes of military justice and found that the various states' legal and administrative  
36 authority to conduct courts-martial and nonjudicial punishment varied greatly and that a  
37 number of National Guard jurisdictions lacked modern and effective laws and procedures  
38 necessary to have a viable military justice system; and

39 WHEREAS, the working group drafted a Model State Code of Military Justice which  
40 provides a comprehensive approach toward increasing uniformity among the states for  
41 court-martial and nonjudicial punishment proceedings for the National Guard when not in  
42 federal service and to provide similarity to those provisions applicable to active duty military  
43 members; and

44 WHEREAS, the Model State Code of Military Justice, in large measure, closely follows the  
45 organization and provisions of the federal Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

46 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Department of Defense approved the Model State Code of Military  
47 Justice and has recommended that all states adopt such to provide the following benefits: (1)  
48 uniformity; (2) enhancing military discipline; (3) closer conformity with the federal Uniform  
49 Code of Military Justice; (4) strengthening military justice training; (5) elimination of  
50 interstate jurisdictional issues; (6) a useful commander's tool to further mission  
51 accomplishment; (7) a step forward in the National Guard's vision of being ready, reliable,  
52 and relevant; and (8) increased credibility with the active duty components and the public;  
53 and

54 WHEREAS, at least 14 states have already adopted and enacted a version of the Model State  
55 Code of Military Justice and 23 other states are actively reviewing such for possible  
56 enactment; and

57 WHEREAS, this state should undertake a comprehensive study to consider whether  
58 enactment of the Model State Code of Military Justice, or some parts thereof, would benefit  
59 the Georgia National Guard, could help facilitate total force integration and interoperability,  
60 could prepare members being called to federal status to meet their responsibilities and uphold  
61 the standards required under the federal Uniform Code of Military Justice, or could provide  
62 any other beneficial purpose.

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
64 Study Committee to Review and Recommend Necessary Changes to the Georgia Code of  
65 Military Justice to be composed of three members of the Senate to be appointed by the  
66 President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate a member of the  
67 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the  
68 committee.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General of Georgia and his or her staff  
70 shall work with the committee to provide information and data as required by the committee  
71 to facilitate its work and to assist in the formulation of its recommendations.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the committee shall receive the  
73 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall  
74 receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The  
75 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds  
76 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and  
77 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be  
78 made on or before December 1, 2014, at which time the committee shall stand abolished.