

Senate Resolution 1203

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Shafer of the 48th, Chance of the 16th, Staton of the 18th,
Miller of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on 9-1-1 System Modernization; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia's current 9-1-1 funding model was created and authorized
4 by the Georgia General Assembly in 1977, at a time when almost every home and business
5 had landline telephone service; and

6 WHEREAS, the current telecommunications landscape has changed substantially since 1977
7 and now the number of mobile phones and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) accounts
8 greatly outnumber the landline telephones in service in our state; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1977, the General Assembly established a maximum fee of \$1.50 per landline
10 telephone; and

11 WHEREAS, the number of telephones in use statewide, regardless of the technology they
12 utilize, has increased significantly since 1977; and

13 WHEREAS, technologies are on the horizon that will allow 9-1-1 centers to be contacted by
14 data sessions and text messages originating from mobile telephones; and

15 WHEREAS, Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia
16 Annotated, "the Georgia Emergency Telephone Number 9-1-1 Service Act of 1977," which
17 provides for 9-1-1 funding, has been amended several times since 1977, in an attempt to keep
18 up with these changes in technology; and

19 WHEREAS, most of the calls to 9-1-1 centers today originate from mobile telephones; and

20 WHEREAS, the funding mechanism for 9-1-1 centers may need to be updated to reflect
21 today's environment; and

22 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of this state's 9-1-1 funding provisions is needed in
23 order to study and identify any reforms necessary to provide adequate funding for
24 maintaining effective and efficient 9-1-1 centers in order to ensure the public safety of all
25 citizens of Georgia.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
27 Study Committee on 9-1-1 System Modernization to be composed of five members of the
28 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. Such members shall include the
29 Chairperson of the Senate Rules Committee and at least two members of the Senate
30 Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The President of the Senate shall designate
31 a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at the
32 call of the chairperson.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
34 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
35 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
36 conduct its meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient
37 to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish
38 the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee is authorized to appoint
39 subcommittees if the appointment of such subcommittees would allow a more expeditious
40 and effective study of the issues. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the
41 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees from the
42 funds appropriated to the Senate but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
43 additional days are authorized. The committee is directed to make a report of its findings and
44 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, not later than
45 December 1, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2014.