

Senate Resolution 1224

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate State Capitol Utilization and Modernization Study Committee; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Capitol is one of only 43 National Historic Landmarks in
4 Georgia, and as the seat of this state's government since 1889, the capitol has been the focus
5 of policy and lawmaking during this state's greatest periods of growth as well as the backdrop
6 against which countless colorful events in this state's history have occurred; and

7 WHEREAS, with few alterations to its exterior since its completion, the Georgia State
8 Capitol is of very high significance architecturally, historically, politically, and socially as
9 the symbolic anchor of Georgia politics since Reconstruction; and

10 WHEREAS, the capitol and the neighboring Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building
11 (CLOB) house the two chambers of the General Assembly, House and Senate offices, the
12 Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and legislative support
13 staff; Georgia's Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of State's Office; the joint
14 offices consisting of the Office of Legislative Counsel, the Fiscal Office, Information
15 Technology, and the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office; and the State
16 Museum of Science and Industry; and

17 WHEREAS, the capitol, CLOB, parking facilities, and surrounding grounds are used by
18 visitors, Georgia General Assembly members, staff, and others all year round; and

19 WHEREAS, it is important that these buildings, facilities, and grounds are utilized to their
20 fullest extent in order to enhance the experience of those who visit and work here; and

21 WHEREAS, placing certain amenities and embracing the use of current technologies
22 throughout the capitol building and CLOB would provide conveniences that currently do not
23 exist for staff and those who frequent the area; and

24 WHEREAS, parking, accessibility, and security are important factors that should be
25 examined to ensure that they are being adequately provided; and

26 WHEREAS, it would serve to promote the history and economy of this state if there were
27 opportunities for visitors to purchase memorabilia and other keepsakes of their visit to this
28 most recognizable feature of the Atlanta skyline that has long been a visual symbol of the
29 State of Georgia to her citizens; and

30 WHEREAS, it is important that the Georgia State Capitol, CLOB, parking facilities, and
31 surrounding grounds be evaluated in order to determine whether they are being used
32 efficiently and effectively in a manner which utilizes and maximizes to the fullest extent
33 possible the space and available technology in order to better serve the members of the public
34 who visit here and better enable those who work here in service of the public to do so.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
36 State Capitol Utilization and Modernization Study Committee to be composed of the
37 chairperson of the Senate Rules Committee and eight additional members of the Senate.
38 Five members of the committee shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and three
39 of the additional members shall be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader. The
40 chairperson of the Senate Rules Committee shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The
41 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
43 needs, and issues mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions or
44 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
45 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
46 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
47 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee is authorized to
48 appoint subcommittees if the appointment of such subcommittees would allow a more
49 expeditious and effective study of the issues. The members of the committee shall receive
50 the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall
51 receive the same for not more than three days unless an additional two days are authorized
52 by the President of the Senate. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
53 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event that the
54 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations for proposed legislation, such
55 report shall be made no later than December 1, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished
56 on December 1, 2014.