

Senate Resolution 282

By: Senators Albers of the 56th and Mullis of the 53rd

**ADOPTED SENATE**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Creating the Joint Peace Officer and Firefighter Occupational Disease Study Committee; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, peace officers, firefighters, and wildland firefighters, in the scope of their  
4 professions, are subject to such occupational diseases as hypertension, heart disease  
5 respiratory disease, cancer, AIDS, and hepatitis; and

6 WHEREAS, it is important that the risks such persons accept as a hazard of their occupation  
7 be taken into account in the process of considering applications for workers' compensation  
8 for occupational diseases.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
10 GEORGIA:

11 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Peace Officer and  
12 Firefighter Occupational Disease Study Committee.

13 (2) **Members and officers.**

14 (A) The committee shall be composed of nine members.

15 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members  
16 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

17 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the  
18 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
19 members as cochairperson.

20 (D) The chairperson of the State Board of Workers' Compensation shall appoint three  
21 members, who shall be employees of the board.

22 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
23 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
24 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

25 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The  
26 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem  
27 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform  
28 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

29 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

30 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided  
31 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

32 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
33 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,  
34 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their  
35 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for  
36 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

37 (C) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received  
38 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are  
39 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
40 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives; except that  
41 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative  
42 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise  
43 available to their respective agencies.

44 (6) **Report.**

45 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
46 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the  
47 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
48 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

49 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
50 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to  
51 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

52 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
53 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
54 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed  
55 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

56 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the  
57 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the  
58 minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

59 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.