

Senate Resolution 592

By: Senator Hill of the 32nd

### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Welfare Fraud Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, nearly 48 million individuals in the United States now receive food stamps, up  
3 from 17 million in 2000; and
- 4 WHEREAS, for every new person who gets a job, two individuals are added to the food  
5 stamp rolls in the United States; and
- 6 WHEREAS, when one new job is created, three people are added to the food stamp rolls in  
7 the United States; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the number of people receiving food stamps has spiked 18 percent since 2010  
9 even though the number of people in poverty dropped 2 percent in that time; and
- 10 WHEREAS, waivers have allowed states, including Georgia, to waive time limits and work  
11 requirements for all able bodied adults; and
- 12 WHEREAS, many states, including Georgia, have eliminated or reduced asset tests, allowing  
13 millionaires to qualify for food stamps; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Georgia has experienced a 109 percent growth in food stamp enrollment from  
15 2004 to 2014, making it one of the nation's highest rates of growth; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Georgia accepts self-attestation without additional verification for residency  
17 requirements in the State of Georgia as part of the Georgia verification procedures for factors  
18 of eligibility; and

19 WHEREAS, the estimated taxpayer savings to the State of Georgia in just the food stamps  
20 (SNAP) when bipartisan eligibility reforms are implemented is between \$5 and \$6 million  
21 in state dollars and approximately \$10 million in combined state and federal dollars; and

22 WHEREAS, the estimated taxpayer savings to the State of Georgia in just the PeachCare  
23 program by implementing enhanced eligibility verification measures would be approximately  
24 \$38 to \$87 million in state dollars and roughly \$116 to \$267 million in combined state and  
25 federal dollars.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

27 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Welfare Fraud  
28 Study Committee.

29 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
30 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a  
31 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

39 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive  
40 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia  
41 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any  
42 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.  
43 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
44 appropriated to the Senate.

45 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

57 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary  
58 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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