

Senate Resolution 593

By: Senator McKoon of the 29th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Power Grid Protection Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the potential for an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack is perhaps our most  
3 serious national and state security threat, one with catastrophic consequences for virtually  
4 all aspects of life; and

5 WHEREAS, an EMP can devastate the transformers that are the backbone of the power grid,  
6 and such pulses can be generated by short-range radio frequency weapons or over very long  
7 distances by a nuclear weapon detonated high above the Earth; and

8 WHEREAS, the anticipated effects of an EMP on an unprotected electrical grid are thought  
9 by experts to include the loss of the electrical system itself and all of the infrastructures that  
10 rely on it – basically everything that makes a 21st century society function, such as food,  
11 transportation, water, medicine, telecommunications, and finance; and

12 WHEREAS, an EMP attack could also result in a huge loss of life, with some estimating that  
13 as many as nine out of ten people would die should power be lost for over a year; and

14 WHEREAS, Maine has become the first state in the nation to pass legislation ordering its  
15 grid to be hardened against an electromagnetic pulse; and

16 WHEREAS, it is important to look at what possible countermeasures are being implemented  
17 or could be implemented to harden this state's power grid, communications, and other critical  
18 electrical circuitry from solar and terrorist EMP events; and

19 WHEREAS, coordinated EMP response and recovery plans that are incorporated into other  
20 disaster scenarios are also important; and

21 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to undertake a study to determine whether it would be  
22 appropriate to enact legislation making new provisions or changing provisions of current law  
23 of this state with regard to the power grid and emergency response systems.

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

25 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Power Grid  
26 Protection Study Committee.

27 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of three members of the  
28 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate the  
29 chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

37 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

40 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
41 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
42 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
43 appropriated to the Senate.

44 (6) **Report.**

45 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
46 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson 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 chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)  
51 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 chairperson of the committee and filed with  
55 the Secretary of the Senate.

- 56 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary  
57 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.  
58 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.