

House Resolution 829

By: Representatives Clark of the 98th, Thomas of the 39th, Barr of the 103rd, Martin of the 49th, Kelley of the 16th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

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

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

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

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

46 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

58 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
59 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
60 thereof.

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