

Senate Resolution 842

By: Senators Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Shafer of the 48th, Cowsert of the 46th, VanNess of the 43rd, Hill of the 32nd and others

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Legislative Process; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the legislative process should be subject to review from time to time for the
3 purposes of improving efficiency and transparency and encouraging the deliberative process;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, all bills, amendments, substitute bills, and conference committee reports should
6 be subject to thoughtful review and analysis; and

7 WHEREAS, an efficient, transparent method of reviewing bills, amendments, substitute bills,
8 and conference committee reports will promote the confidence of the citizens of the State of
9 Georgia in the legislative process; and

10 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the Senate to consider and evaluate the legislative
11 process to determine if there are areas that could be improved to enhance efficiency, promote
12 public confidence, increase transparency and openness, and ensure a proper deliberative
13 approach to the making of laws.

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

15 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
16 on the Legislative Process.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the President Pro
18 Tempore, the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, and four other members of the
19 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member
20 of the minority party. The President shall designate a member of the committee as
21 chairperson of the committee.

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

29 (5) **Allowances 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) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
33 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
34 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
35 appropriated to the Senate.

36 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

50 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.