

Senate Resolution 1084

By: Senators VanNess of the 43rd, Mullis of the 53rd, Rhett of the 33rd and Harper of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Vacant Structures; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, there are dwellings or other buildings or structures in this state which are unfit
 3 for human habitation or for commercial, industrial, or business occupancy or use and not in
 4 compliance with applicable state minimum standard codes; any optional building, fire, life
 5 safety, or other codes relative to the safe use of real property and real property
 6 improvements; or general nuisance law and which constitute a hazard to the health, safety,
 7 and welfare of the people of this state and a public necessity exists for the repair, closing, or
 8 demolition of such dwellings, buildings, or structures; and

9 WHEREAS, where there is in existence a condition or use of real estate which renders
 10 adjacent real estate unsafe or inimical to safe human habitation, such use is dangerous and
 11 injurious to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state and a public necessity
 12 exists for the repair of such condition or the cessation of such use which renders the adjacent
 13 real estate unsafe or inimical to safe human habitation; and

14 WHEREAS, there exists in this state dwellings, buildings, or structures which are unfit for
 15 human habitation or for commercial, industrial, or business uses due to dilapidation and
 16 which are not in compliance with applicable codes; which have defects that increase the
 17 hazards of fire, accidents, or other calamities; which lack adequate ventilation, light, or
 18 sanitary facilities; or which have other conditions rendering such dwellings, buildings, or
 19 structures unsafe or unsanitary or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare,
 20 or otherwise inimical to the welfare, of the residents of this state; and

21 WHEREAS, there exists in this state vacant, dilapidated dwellings, buildings, or structures
 22 in which drug crimes are being committed and private property constituting an endangerment
 23 to the public health or safety as a result of unsanitary or unsafe conditions to those persons
 24 residing or working in the vicinity of the property.

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

26 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
27 on Vacant Structures.

28 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following seven
29 members:

30 (A) The chairperson of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee,
31 or his or her designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the study committee;

32 (B) The chairperson of the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations
33 Committee, or his or her designee; and

34 (C) One member, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, from each of the
35 following:

36 (i) Georgia Association of Realtors;

37 (ii) Georgia Municipal Association;

38 (iii) Association County Commissioners of Georgia;

39 (iv) Council for Quality Growth; and

40 (v) Georgia Bankers Association.

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

44 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
45 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
46 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
47 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution; provided, however, that the
48 committee shall meet at least three times.

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

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

52 (B) Members of the committee who are not legislators shall receive a daily expense
53 allowance in an amount the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section
54 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as well as the mileage or
55 transportation allowance authorized for state employees.

56 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
57 of the committee for more than five days. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions
58 of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate.

59 (6) **Report.**

60 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
61 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

62 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
63 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

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

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

71 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
72 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

73 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2016.