

House Resolution 1704

By: Representatives Ealum of the 153rd and Greene of the 151st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Restoration of Civil Rights; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, each year thousands of Georgians who have been sentenced to punishment for
3 felony crimes fulfill the terms of their punishment and attempt to start life anew, only to
4 discover that, in spite of having paid their debt to society for their offenses, they are still
5 treated as less than full citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, many former offenders find themselves unable to reintegrate into society and
7 ultimately return to the only life available to them, a life outside of mainstream society; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia, whose first founders were themselves brought out of the prisons of
9 England to start life afresh, should be a place where former offenders who have done their
10 time can face freedom with a fighting chance to start a new life; and

11 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the policies and procedures of the State Board
12 of Pardons and Paroles to determine whether Georgia is efficiently and effectively restoring
13 the civil rights of deserving citizens.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

15 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
16 on Restoration of Civil Rights.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the
18 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
20 of the committee.

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

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

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

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

31 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
32 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
33 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
34 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

35 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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