

House Resolution 339

By: Representatives Williams of the 145th, Bentley of the 139th, Ridley of the 6th, Nix of the 69th, Williams of the 168th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Funeral, Cemetery, and Related Services; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the time following the loss of a loved one is one of the most difficult periods
4 in an individual's life; and

5 WHEREAS, there are many service areas relating to the loss of a loved one that need to be
6 examined to ensure that the best interests of the citizens of this state are being served; and

7 WHEREAS, funeral, cemetery, and related services are subject to a myriad of laws and rules
8 and regulations; and

9 WHEREAS, the industry has changed substantially since many of these laws were enacted
10 or last amended; it has been a decade, for instance, since the General Assembly last
11 reviewed state laws governing cemetery practices and pricing; and

12 WHEREAS, consequently, in many places there are undefined terms, outdated terminology,
13 obsolete provisions, and other matters in need of review; and

14 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the provisions relating to funeral, cemetery, and
15 related services is necessary in order to study and identify any reforms necessary to provide
16 for and maintain an effective and efficient Code that will promote the best interests of the
17 citizens of this state, provide clear guidance to those in the industry, and afford those who
18 regulate and enforce the Code in these areas the necessary tools to effectively do so.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
20 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
21 on Funeral, Cemetery, and Related Services.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
23 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
25 of the committee.

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

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

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

39 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

54 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.