

Senate Resolution 307

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Butler of the 55th and Stone of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Joint Task Force; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, human trafficking is defined by federal law to include:

- 4 (1) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion,
5 or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18 years of age; and
6 (2) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor
7 or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of involuntary
8 servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; and

9 WHEREAS, more generally, human trafficking is the modern-day practice of slavery and is
10 one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, generating billions of dollars by
11 using force, fraud, and coercion to subject United States citizens and foreign nationals, both
12 minors and adults, to sexual or labor exploitation; and

13 WHEREAS, human trafficking does not always involve movement of victims but may
14 encompass both transnational trafficking that crosses borders and domestic or internal
15 trafficking that occurs within a country or a state; and

16 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly enacted HB 200 in 2011 to strengthen state laws
17 on the trafficking of persons for sexual servitude by increasing the penalties for human
18 trafficking and child sex trafficking as well as broadening the definition of coercion to
19 recognize and encompass additional ways that victims are coerced into exploitation; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly enacted SB 8/Rachel's Law in 2015 to further
21 advocate against the sexual exploitation of Georgia minors by creating more severe
22 punishments for those found guilty of this crime, increasing the statute of limitations for
23 child sex trafficking victims from the age of 23 to the age of 25, requiring offenders to

24 register with the State Sexual Offender Registry, and creating the framework for the Safe
25 Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund and Commission; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia has significantly improved its child welfare infrastructure, advanced
27 new laws protecting child and adult victims of commercial exploitation, and provided
28 significant funding mechanisms to increase access to diagnostic, housing, and therapeutic
29 services; and

30 WHEREAS, advocacy groups have provided education for Georgians and helped improve
31 our setting net settings and resources; and

32 WHEREAS, it is important that Georgia continue its efforts to address human trafficking by
33 reviewing and examining alternative approaches or models from other states insofar as
34 sentencing provisions, expungement of convictions, sexual offender registry requirements,
35 and terms and definitions for criminal offenses such as pandering or pimping.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
37 GEORGIA:

38 (1) **Creation of joint task force.** There is created the Sexual Exploitation and Human
39 Trafficking Joint Task Force.

40 (2) **Members and officers.**

41 (A) The task force shall be composed of 14 members.

42 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members of the Senate as members
43 of the task force and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

44 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the
45 House of Representatives as members of the task force and shall designate one of such
46 members as cochairperson.

47 (D) The Governor shall make the following appointments:

48 (i) A representative from the Division of Family and Children Services within the
49 Department of Human Services;

50 (ii) A representative from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council;

51 (iii) A representative from the Office of the Child Advocate;

52 (iv) A representative from the Attorney General's office;

53 (v) A representative from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation;

54 (vi) A representative from local government;

55 (vii) A prosecuting attorney;

56 (viii) A representative from a nonprofit agency with experience connecting services
57 and treatment care for child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking;

58 (ix) A representative from a faith-based advocacy group; and

59 (x) A representative that is a member of a vice squad.

60 (3) **Powers and duties.** The task force shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
61 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
62 legislation which the task force deems necessary or appropriate.

63 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the task force. The task
64 force may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
65 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform
66 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

68 (A) The legislative members of the task force shall receive the allowances provided for
69 in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

70 (B) Members of the task force who are state officials, other than legislative members,
71 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the task force,
72 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their
73 duties as members of the task force in the same manner as they are reimbursed for
74 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

75 (C) Members of the task force who are not legislators, state officials, or state
76 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
77 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
78 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
79 employees.

80 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
81 by any member of the task force for more than five days unless additional days are
82 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
83 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives; except that
84 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
85 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
86 available to their respective agencies.

87 (6) **Report.**

88 (A) In the event the task force adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
89 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
90 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
91 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

92 (B) In the event the task force adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
93 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
94 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

95 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
96 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the task force.

97 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the task force and filed
98 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

99 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
100 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the
101 minutes of the meetings of the task force in lieu thereof.

102 (7) **Abolishment.** The task force shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.