

Senate Resolution 352

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Homelessness; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, homelessness imposes a tremendous economic and social cost to homeless
3 individuals, their families, businesses, neighborhoods, and government; and
- 4 WHEREAS, unacceptable levels of homelessness among adults, older adults, and families
5 remain an ongoing challenge facing the State of Georgia; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the factors that contribute to homelessness are many and complex, including
7 a lack of affordable housing, a shortage of family wage jobs, domestic violence, a shortage
8 of housing with supportive services, high levels of debt, substance abuse, mental illness,
9 access to affordable health care, and people exiting institutions and systems of care; and
- 10 WHEREAS, private businesses, charitable and philanthropic organizations, cities, counties,
11 the federal government, and the State of Georgia, as well as private citizens, are investing
12 resources to assist people who are homeless and to prevent homelessness; and
- 13 WHEREAS, homelessness is a multifaceted problem requiring coordination of resources,
14 systems, and efforts from the private sector and from all levels of government; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia must find a long-term solution to homelessness; and
- 16 WHEREAS, a study is needed to understand the extent of the problem of homelessness to
17 include:
- 18 (1) An evaluation of the cost of homelessness to the state and shall require input from the
19 Department of Human Services, the Department of Community Health, and the
20 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;
- 21 (2) Identifying appropriate federal agency initiatives and related state implementations
22 of any such initiatives;

- 23 (3) Evaluating federal funding Georgia currently receives that is potentially available for
 24 addressing homelessness;
- 25 (4) Identification of state initiatives currently in place addressing homelessness or parallel
 26 initiatives which may be expanded to include the problems of homelessness; and
- 27 (5) Conducting operational and performance assessment of homelessness initiatives and
 28 make recommendations for streamlining and coordinating initiatives across agencies.

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

- 30 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
 31 on Homelessness.
- 32 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 15 members as
 33 follows:
- 34 (A) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members and shall appoint the
 35 chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee as a member of the
 36 study committee and shall designate such chairperson as the chairperson of the
 37 committee;
- 38 (B) The Governor shall appoint two members;
- 39 (C) The commissioner of community health shall appoint two members representing
 40 Medicaid and home community based services programs;
- 41 (D) The commissioner of community affairs shall appoint one member representing
 42 community development and housing and one representative from the Georgia
 43 Association of Regional Commissions;
- 44 (E) The commissioner of human services shall appoint two members representing adult
 45 protective services, aging services, and public guardianship;
- 46 (F) The commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities shall appoint
 47 two members representing addictive disorders and behavioral health;
- 48 (G) The commissioner of public health shall appoint one member; and
- 49 (H) The commissioner of veterans service shall appoint one member.
- 50 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
 51 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
 52 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 53 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
 54 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
 55 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
 56 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

60 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
61 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
62 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
63 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
64 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

65 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
66 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
67 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
68 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
69 employees.

70 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
71 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
72 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
73 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of
74 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the
75 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
76 available to their respective agencies.

77 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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