

Senate Resolution 467

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Service Animals for Physically or Mentally
2 Impaired Persons; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, service animals can assist physically or mentally impaired persons with
4 performing tasks and accomplishing major life activities, including ambulating, seeing,
5 hearing, learning, working, and interacting with others; and

6 WHEREAS, physically or mentally impaired persons are authorized by federal law to have
7 their service animal accompany them in places where the general public is invited; and

8 WHEREAS, some individuals take their pets with them to public accommodations and
9 facilities claiming such pet is a service animal when, in actuality, such pet is a "fake service
10 animal"; and

11 WHEREAS, there is no state or federal certification process to ensure that an animal
12 accompanying a person is actually a service animal; and

13 WHEREAS, owners and operators of restaurants, hotels, and other places of public
14 accommodation are put in the difficult position of trying to make such determination on the
15 spot; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to examine these issues, including whether there is a need
17 for a uniform certification process or the issuance of information cards, whether there is a
18 need to criminalize the use of a "fake service animal," or whether the rights of trainers of
19 service animals should be clarified, and to determine if legislative action is needed on any
20 of these issues.

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

22 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
23 on Service Animals for Physically or Mentally Impaired Persons.

24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
25 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
26 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

40 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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