

## House Resolution 1226

By: Representatives Clark of the 98<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, McClain of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 167<sup>th</sup>, and Gravley of the 67<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Combat Sports; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, research shows that mixed martial arts and unarmed combat sports are the  
3 fastest growing sports, both for participants and spectators, in the world; and
- 4 WHEREAS, mixed martial arts is rapidly becoming the highest grossing sports industry in  
5 the world; and
- 6 WHEREAS, mixed martial arts is also becoming one of the most regulated sports industries  
7 in the world; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has participated in the past by hosting world championship  
9 title fights; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Georgia has recently become one of the top destinations in the world for the  
11 entertainment industry; and
- 12 WHEREAS, this state is uniquely positioned to capitalize on the positive economic  
13 development effects of this rapidly growing industry; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the laws in this area have not been studied or changed in decades to reflect the  
15 new research regarding unarmed combat, including mixed martial arts; and
- 16 WHEREAS, study in this area is necessary to determine if legislative changes are warranted  
17 and needed in order to focus on the safety of the sport by addressing extreme weight cutting  
18 and other related issues, to further devote attention to the economic impact of supporting  
19 mixed martial arts and other unarmed combat sports in order to identify the magnitude of the  
20 benefits to this state's economy, and to ensure this state is highly competitive in hosting and  
21 supporting such global sporting events.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 GEORGIA:

24 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on  
25 Combat Sports.

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

27 (A) The committee shall be composed of 15 members.

28 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the  
29 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
30 members as cochairperson. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also  
31 appoint an additional three members of the committee as follows:

32 (i) One member with expertise in sports medicine;

33 (ii) One member with regulatory expertise in athletic, unarmed combat sports; and

34 (iii) One member from an industry organization or group with expertise in the  
35 promotion and production of unarmed combat events in the State of Georgia.

36 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members  
37 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. The  
38 President of the Senate shall also appoint an additional three members of the committee  
39 as follows:

40 (i) One member with expertise in sports medicine;

41 (ii) One member with regulatory expertise in athletic, unarmed combat sports; and

42 (iii) One member from an industry organization or group with expertise in the  
43 promotion and production of unarmed combat events in the State of Georgia.

44 (D) The Governor shall appoint an additional member of the committee.

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

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

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

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

55 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
56 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,  
57 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their

58 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for  
59 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

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

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

72 **(6) Report.**

73 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
74 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the  
75 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
76 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

77 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
78 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to  
79 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

80 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
81 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
82 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed  
83 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

84 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk  
85 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes  
86 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

87 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.