

Senate Resolution 995

By: Senator Beach of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate 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 SENATE:

23 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
24 on Combat Sports.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members. The
26 President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members of the
27 committee and shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The President of the
28 Senate shall also appoint an additional three members of the committee as follows:

- 29 (i) One member with expertise in sports medicine;
30 (ii) One member with regulatory expertise in athletic, unarmed combat sports; and
31 (iii) One member from an industry organization or group with expertise in the
32 promotion and production of unarmed combat events in the State of Georgia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

71 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
72 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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