

Senate Resolution 948

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Cowser of the 46th and Walker III of the 20th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Coin Operated Amusement Machine Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the number of coin operated amusement machines commercially available to
4 the public in Georgia has substantially increased over the years since they first became
5 regulated by the Georgia Lottery Corporation; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia lawmakers have from time to time revised laws relating to such
7 machines with the aim of preventing illegal gambling and avoiding problems related to
8 gambling but not unduly restricting residents' access to a popular form of entertainment; and

9 WHEREAS, it has been articulated by some in the industry that problems still exist as to
10 corruption and extortion by bad actors and that additional reform and heightened penalties
11 may be necessary; and

12 WHEREAS, proposals have been advanced during this legislative session and in previous
13 sessions that include proposals such as increasing the amount of money the Georgia Lottery
14 Corporation receives from such machines that go toward HOPE scholarships and other
15 educational programs, providing for gift card payout redemptions, prohibiting specific
16 conduct, and increasing fines and penalties; and

17 WHEREAS, study of the industry, especially with regard to adherence to present law and
18 other enforcement issues, and an opportunity to gain additional public opinion would be
19 useful in determining whether additional statutory revision is needed.

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

21 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Coin Operated
22 Amusement Machine Study Committee.

23 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of nine members as
24 follows:

25 (A) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate to serve as
26 members of the committee, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the Senate
27 Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The President of the Senate shall also
28 appoint three citizens to serve as members of the committee. The President of the
29 Senate shall designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the
30 committee; and

31 (B) The chief executive officer of the Georgia Lottery Corporation, or his or her
32 designee, and the Attorney General, or his or her designee, shall also serve as members
33 of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
60 available to their respective agencies.

61 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

75 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.