

## 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.