

House Resolution 1704

By: Representative Stinson of the 150th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Dangerous Animal Attacks and Animal Control
2 Resources in Rural Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's "Responsible Dog Ownership Law" governs classification of
4 dangerous and vicious dogs, as well as procedure for their seizure and impoundment and the
5 rights and penalties of such a dog's owner; and

6 WHEREAS, Code Section 4-8-23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated addresses
7 protocols and procedures in circumstances where the owner of a classified dog cannot be
8 identified; and

9 WHEREAS, local government officials are shielded from civil liability for damages from a
10 dog attack where no owner can be found; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia has not established a system for liability when a person is attacked by
12 a stray dog or a dog whose owner cannot be identified and, in such situations, the dog will
13 most likely be euthanized; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia has also not established a system to compensate victims of an attack
15 by a stray dog or a dog whose owner cannot be identified; and

16 WHEREAS, a study committee is needed to thoroughly evaluate what additional resources
17 may be needed by rural areas without animal control resources within the state to effectively
18 and efficiently combat dangerous animal attacks.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

20 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
21 on Dangerous Animal Attacks and Animal Control Resources in Rural Georgia.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall comprise 11 members of the House of
23 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the committee as
25 chairperson of the committee.

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

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

33 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

36 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
37 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds

38 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
39 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

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 a report subject to subparagraph (C) of
47 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 Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

55 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2026.