

Senate Resolution 348

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Mullis of the 53rd, Golden of the 8th, Chance of the 16th and Albers of the 56th

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

1 Creating the Georgia Program Integrity Joint Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that fraud, waste, abuse, and improper payments
3 are pervasive, and often on the rise, in many government programs; and

4 WHEREAS, fraud, waste, abuse, and improper payments can adversely affect the state
5 budget, impede economic development, and deplete benefits intended for citizens in need;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia is currently limited in its ability to address widespread fraud; and

8 WHEREAS, with continual improvements in technology, entities involved in perpetrating
9 fraud and abuse of government programs often work in organized and collusive fraud rings
10 or networks to attack any and all government programs, and inspector generals and program
11 integrity offices need additional tools to address the more sophisticated criminals; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia must take action in order to reduce fraud and save
13 taxpayers money.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that there is
15 created the Georgia Program Integrity Joint Study Committee to be composed of eight
16 members as follows:

17 (1) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, one of whom
18 shall be the chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee;

19 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the House Committee
21 on Governmental Affairs;

22 (3) Two citizen members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and(4) Two citizen
23 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The chairperson of the Senate Finance Committee and the chairperson of the House Committee on Governmental Affairs shall serve as cochairpersons of the committee. The committee may elect other officers as deemed necessary. The cochairpersons may designate and appoint subcommittees from among the membership of the committee as well as appoint other persons to perform such functions as they may determine to be necessary and relevant to and consistent with this resolution. The cochairpersons shall only vote to break a tie. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons. A quorum for transacting business shall be four members of the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall study and make recommendations on how the state can better address fraud in government programs by:

- (1) Studying current capabilities, needs, and limitations in government detection of fraud;
- (2) Studying efforts by other states to address fraud across multiple government programs;
- (3) Studying efforts by other states to implement enterprise approaches to reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and improper payments;
- (4) Studying any limitations in state law that may prevent the sharing of information between state agencies that would present a barrier to fraud detection and prevention;
- (5) Studying any other necessary issues in relation to fraud detection and prevention as determined by the committee; and
- (6) Recommending the best manner in which the State of Georgia can address such issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct its meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. Legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Citizen members of the committee shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee except for the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments. All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a report of its findings and
60 recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor, with suggestions for proposed
61 legislation or appropriations, if any, on or before October 1, 2013. The committee shall stand
62 abolished on December 31, 2013.