

Senate Resolution 527

By: Senators Payne of the 54th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, McLaurin of the 14th, Kennedy of the 18th, Harbison of the 15th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Veterans' Mental Health and Housing; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, numerous Georgians have served our country in the armed services of the
4 United States; and

5 WHEREAS, many Georgians require services and support tailored to their unique
6 experiences and the challenges they face as veterans, particularly if they have suffered severe
7 injuries or been exposed to traumatic events during their service; and

8 WHEREAS, many veterans suffer from chronic injuries, physical disabilities, addiction,
9 mental illness, or other issues that may limit their ability to work or obtain housing; and

10 WHEREAS, a recent federal study by the Housing Assistance Council estimates that as many
11 as 40,000 veterans in Georgia live in poverty and that nearly 700 veterans currently
12 experience homelessness in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, promoting access to specialized services and housing is often a key step to
14 ensuring that veterans and their families have the resources and support they need to thrive
15 in the years following their military service; and

16 WHEREAS, the Senate should regularly evaluate the adequacy of public and private
17 programs and services available in Georgia to provide these vital resources to veterans.

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

19 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
20 on Veterans' Mental Health and Housing.

21 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
22 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, who shall designate one such
23 member as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

31 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.** The members of the committee shall receive
32 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
33 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
34 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
35 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
36 appropriated to the Senate.

37 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

51 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.