

Senate Resolution 570

By: Senators Robertson of the 29th, Gooch of the 51st, Anavitarte of the 31st, Albers of the 56th, Tillery of the 19th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Supporting Safety and Welfare of All Individuals in Department of
2 Corrections Facilities Study Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Corrections is responsible for the operation of
4 secure and safe corrections facilities in this state and for ensuring the welfare of both its staff
5 and those in its custody; and

6 WHEREAS, on average in 2023, more than 50,000 people each day were in the custody of
7 the Department of Corrections across all facility types; and

8 WHEREAS, from Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2022, the total number of
9 Department of Corrections employees (by Full-Time Equivalent) shrank from 8,158 to 6,169,
10 and the number of employees in the facilities division shrank from 7,527 to 5,546; and

11 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state and its citizens that the Department of
12 Corrections is able to operate secure and safe facilities and ensure the welfare of both its staff
13 and those in its custody; and

14 WHEREAS, a study would be beneficial to examine current issues impacting the ability of
15 the Department of Corrections to operate secure and safe facilities and to ensure the welfare
16 of both its staff and those in its custody.

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

18 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Supporting Safety
19 and Welfare of All Individuals in Department of Corrections Facilities Study Committee.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members of the
21 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall
22 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

36 (6) **Report.**

37 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
38 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

39 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
40 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

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

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

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

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