

House Resolution 590

By: Representatives Dickey of the 134th, Parsons of the 44th, Martin of the 49th, Williams of the 37th, and Anderson of the 10th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Telecommunications Services and Programs for the
2 Hearing and Visually Impaired; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission, by an Act of the General Assembly, approved
4 April 11, 1990 (Ga. L. 1990, p. 1118), was directed to establish, implement, administer, and
5 promote a state-wide single provider dual party relay service; and

6 WHEREAS, further Acts of the General Assembly directed the Public Service Commission
7 to provide an audible universal information access service, telecommunications equipment
8 distribution program, and other hearing technology; and

9 WHEREAS, the dual party relay service and other such programs have benefitted the deaf
10 and hard of hearing community and the blind community in Georgia for decades; and

11 WHEREAS, the advent of newer technology over the past 35 years has resulted in a
12 significant reduction in the usage of the dual party relay service in particular; and

13 WHEREAS, the General Assembly, in the interest of fiscal responsibility and good
14 governance, seeks the guidance of the deaf and hard of hearing community and the blind

15 community, as well as other stakeholders and concerned citizens, to determine whether
16 legislation is needed to address the current and future need of such service and programs as
17 well as the assistance needs of Georgians with auditory, speech, or visual impairments.

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

19 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
20 on Telecommunications Services and Programs for the Hearing and Visually Impaired.

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

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

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

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

38 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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

53 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.