

## House Resolution 757

By: Representatives Clark of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Evans of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Lim of the 98<sup>th</sup>, and Barnes of the 86<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Civil Rights Protections; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of the few states without comprehensive state civil rights laws  
3 protecting individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations,  
4 and public services; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Constitution guarantees equal protection for all citizens and affirms  
6 the natural and inalienable right to freedom of conscience and worship; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly understands that it is in the public interest of the State  
8 of Georgia to study, evaluate, and make policy recommendations for comprehensive civil  
9 rights protections in employment, housing, public accommodations, and public services  
10 without discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation,  
11 age, disability, or familial status; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the General Assembly further understands that, in developing recommendations  
13 for such comprehensive civil rights protections, there is a compelling need to examine the  
14 enforcement mechanisms, legal frameworks, and best practices from other states and to

15 ensure any recommendations balance the protection of individual liberties with the interests  
16 of businesses and government institutions.

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

18 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
19 on Civil Rights Protections.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
21 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson  
23 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, including, but not  
27 limited to, the following:

28 (A) Conducting a comprehensive review of Georgia's existing anti-discrimination laws  
29 and identifying any gaps in protections;

30 (B) Analyzing data and research on discrimination in employment, housing, public  
31 accommodations, and public services in Georgia;

32 (C) Reviewing civil rights laws from other states and federal civil rights statutes for  
33 guidance on best practices;

34 (D) Assessing enforcement mechanisms, including, but not limited to, the role of state  
35 agencies, private rights of action, and remedies available to victims of discrimination;

36 (E) Evaluating the impact of potential legislation on businesses, government entities,  
37 and affected communities; and

38 (F) Making recommendations for legislation to address any identified deficiencies in  
39 Georgia's civil rights protections.

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

44 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.** The members of the committee shall receive  
45 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia  
46 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any  
47 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.  
48 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
49 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

50 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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