

Senate Resolution 533

By: Senator James of the 28th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Enhancing Public Safety and Civic Health; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, individuals diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and autism
4 spectrum disorder (ASD) face unique challenges during emergencies, which can lead to
5 communication barriers, heightened anxiety, and difficulties in following emergency
6 responders' instructions; and

7 WHEREAS, medical chain bracelets have helped countless individuals with heart issues,
8 epilepsy, and seizures; and

9 WHEREAS, introducing officially recognized safety devices, similar to existing medical
10 bracelets, to help first responders identify individuals experiencing a PTSD episode or
11 autism-related distress, would help ensure better outcomes from such encounters; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health may develop such bracelets in
13 collaboration with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and
14 with support from state and local law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, and ASD
15 advocacy groups; and

16 WHEREAS, such a program would enhance public safety while promoting a more inclusive
17 and compassionate emergency response system; and

18 WHEREAS, a study is needed to evaluate the impact of implementing an official emergency
19 alert bracelet program in Georgia.

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

21 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
22 on Enhancing Public Safety and Civic Health.

23 (2) **Members and officers.** The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of
24 the Senate and shall designate two such members as cochairpersons of the committee.
25 One such cochairperson shall be a member of the majority party and one such
26 cochairperson shall be a member of the minority party.

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

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

34 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

35 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
36 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

37 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
38 of the committee for more than four days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
39 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
40 appropriated to the Senate.

41 **(6) Report.**

42 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
43 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
44 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
45 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

46 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
47 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
48 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

49 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
50 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
51 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
52 with the Secretary of the Senate.

53 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
54 Secretary of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
55 thereof.

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