

Senate Resolution 847

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, James of the 35th, Payne of the 54th, Robertson of the 29th, Harbison of the 15th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Universal Design Incorporation Within State
2 Buildings; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, conceptually, universal design aims to create environments and products which
4 are accessible and beneficial to both disabled and nondisabled individuals; and

5 WHEREAS, universal design may, for example, be in the form of automated doors, water
6 fountains at varying heights, curb cuts, and levered door handles; and

7 WHEREAS, state buildings, in particular, should serve as models of inclusivity and equality,
8 providing equal access and usability for individuals with and without disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, implementing universal design principles within state buildings can enhance
10 safety, convenience, and user experience; and

11 WHEREAS, including universal design features within state buildings can assist in
12 destroying various stigmas and discriminations often imposed upon persons with disabilities;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, incorporating universal design features within state buildings can reduce
15 retrofitting and have significant long-term cost savings; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to this state to conduct a study to assess the current status
17 of accessibility and usability of state buildings by persons with and without disabilities and
18 to determine ways in which to facilitate the implementation of universal design principles
19 in such buildings so that all persons are benefitted.

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 Universal Design Incorporation Within State Buildings.

23 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of nine members as
24 follows:

25 (A) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; and

26 (B) Six nonlegislative members appointed by the President of the Senate, which shall
27 include:

28 (i) Two representatives from the Georgia State Financing and Investment
29 Commission;

30 (ii) One member who possesses expertise in universal design;

31 (iii) One member who possesses expertise in architecture;

32 (iv) One member who possesses expertise in engineering; and

33 (v) One member trained or certified in working with persons with disabilities.

34 The President of the Senate shall designate a legislative member of the committee as
35 chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

46 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
47 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
48 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
49 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
50 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

51 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
52 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
53 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
54 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
55 employees.

56 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
57 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
58 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
59 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of
60 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the
61 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
62 available to their respective agencies.

63 (6) **Report.** The committee shall adopt specific findings and recommendations,
64 including recommendations for proposed legislation. The report shall be approved by

65 majority vote of a quorum of the committee, signed by the chairperson of the committee,
66 and filed with the Secretary of the Senate no later than December 1, 2024.
67 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.