

House Resolution 827

By: Representatives Jones of the 53rd, Scott of the 76th, Thomas of the 56th, Bennett of the 94th, Anderson of the 92nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Stopping Abusive and Violent Environments for
2 All Citizens of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on March 7, 2013, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization
4 was signed into law; and

5 WHEREAS, one of the most important components of such Act is the new inclusion mandate
6 which provides that:

7 No person in the United States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color,
8 religion, national origin, sex, gender identity..., sexual orientation, or disability, be
9 excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to
10 discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made
11 available under the Violence Against Women Act;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act includes a
14 number of additional provisions designed to make VAWA-funded services and programs
15 inclusive and to bring an end to discriminatory practices; and

16 WHEREAS, discriminatory practices have been documented on a wide scale against male,
17 lesbian, gay, and immigrant victims of abuse; and

18 WHEREAS, no victim of domestic violence should be re-victimized by shameful
19 discriminatory practices and everyone - women and men, gay and straight, children and
20 adults of all races, ethnicities, countries of origin, and tribal affiliations - should be protected;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, it is important to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State of
23 Georgia that the inclusiveness mandate of the new federal law be implemented as swiftly as
24 possible; and

25 WHEREAS, there is a need to review the policies and practices of abuse shelters, police
26 departments, and prosecutors in order to determine the appropriate measures, including any
27 legislative action, necessary to weed out all traces of bias.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 there is created the House Study Committee on Stopping Abusive and Violent Environments
30 for All Citizens of Georgia to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives
31 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House
32 of Representatives shall select one of the members appointed as the chairperson of the
33 committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
35 needs, issues, and problems mentioned in this resolution or related thereto and recommend
36 any actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The
37 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
38 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
39 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative
40 members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
41 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than three days
42 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
43 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the
44 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
45 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2013.
46 The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2013.