

Senate Resolution 1170

By: Senator McKoon of the 29th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Divorce Proceedings Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, as divorcing parties are increasingly choosing to proceed pro se,  
3 divorce-specific changes to the Civil Practice Act may be necessary to simplify divorce  
4 proceedings; and

5 WHEREAS, reducing the complexity of divorce proceedings may also reduce the cost of  
6 divorce and allow divorcing parties to better afford attorneys or to obtain unbundled divorce  
7 related legal services; and

8 WHEREAS, studying ways to reduce the complexity, cost, and litigious nature of divorce  
9 cases in Georgia courts and the burden such cases place on the judiciary is needed.

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

11 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Divorce  
12 Proceedings Study Committee.

13 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
14 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate; provided, however, that one such  
15 member shall be the chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee who shall serve as  
16 chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

27 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
28 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
29 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
30 appropriated to the Senate.

31 (6) **Report.**

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

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

39 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
40 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
41 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
42 the Secretary of the Senate.

43 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary  
44 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

45 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.