

Senate Resolution 238

By: Senators James of the 35th, Jones of the 10th, Rhett of the 33rd, Davenport of the 44th, Anderson of the 43rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Electroshock Therapy Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, electroshock therapy, especially upon persons younger than 18 years of age, is
3 a complex topic that ties together elements of psychiatry, neurology, and ethics; and
- 4 WHEREAS, electroshock therapy is performed as a medical procedure upon Georgia
5 citizens; and
- 6 WHEREAS, electroshock therapy has significant risks of treatment including, but not limited
7 to, the possibility of death, memory loss, brain damage, physical trauma, fractures, cardiac
8 ischemia, cardiac arrhythmia, prolonged apnea, post-treatment confusion, prolonged seizures,
9 treatment-emergent mania, exacerbation of psychiatric symptoms, headaches, muscle
10 soreness, and nausea and vomiting; and
- 11 WHEREAS, given the risks of treatment presented by electroshock therapy, study is needed
12 to evaluate its benefits and conduciveness as a medical procedure.
- 13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:
- 14 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Electroshock
15 Therapy Study Committee.
- 16 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
17 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
18 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.
- 19 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
20 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
21 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 22 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
23 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

24 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
25 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

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

33 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

47 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.