

## Senate Resolution 293

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Esteves of the 6th, Merritt of the 9th and Jackson of the 41st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on an Equity Impact Tool for Legislation; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, this state has a diverse population; and

4 WHEREAS, the health, safety, and productivity of all communities in this state, including  
5 historically marginalized communities, are of the utmost importance; and

6 WHEREAS, disparities in this state have many intersecting causes; and

7 WHEREAS, all citizens of this state are harmed by unintended disparities created by  
8 legislation; and

9 WHEREAS, providing demographic data and other information would help members of the  
10 General Assembly to proactively identify possible disparate impacts on historically  
11 marginalized communities caused by legislative actions and allow for better informed and  
12 more intentional decisions with regard to legislative proposals; and

13 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to examine the problem of disparities created by  
14 legislation, the feasibility of assessing equity impact, and the potential effects of requiring  
15 equity impact tools for legislation.

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

17 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee  
18 on an Equity Impact Tool for Legislation.

19 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the  
20 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall  
21 also appoint an additional three non-legislative members of the committee as follows: one  
22 representative from Georgia Watch and two community members who have experienced  
23 a disparate impact caused by legislation. The President of the Senate shall designate a  
24 legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

32 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

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

35 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
36 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their service on the  
37 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the

38 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they  
39 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

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

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

52 **(6) Report.**

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

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

60 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
61 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
62 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
63 the Secretary of the Senate. Any member of the committee may file a minority report  
64 that shall accompany the majority report.

- 65 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary  
66 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.  
67 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2023.