

Senate Resolution 383

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Walker III of the 20th, Tillery of the 19th, Thompson of the 14th, Harbison of the 15th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Restoration of Veterans Nursing Facilities; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs has identified the need for Georgia to
4 provide skilled nursing facilities for 1,975 veterans; and

5 WHEREAS, the two Georgia War Veteran Homes are only capable of supporting less than
6 500 veterans; and

7 WHEREAS, the Augusta War Veterans home is 53 years old, has asbestos, and with
8 infection control practices in effect, can house less than 150 veterans in a community that has
9 approximately 60,000 veterans; and

10 WHEREAS, the Vinson Building, located in Milledgeville, Georgia, is also 53 years old and
11 provides three-person rooms, none of which have either sinks or toilets; and

12 WHEREAS, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act will further reduce the
13 number of beds in the existing facilities; and

14 WHEREAS, the demographics of Georgia's veterans have shifted and the need may exist to
15 build a skilled nursing facility in communities with large veteran populations; and

16 WHEREAS, it is beneficial to both veterans and their family members that a skilled nursing
17 facility be within a reasonable driving distance of less than two hours; and

18 WHEREAS, metro Atlanta has the largest concentration of veterans in the state but is only
19 supported by one Department of Veterans Affairs skilled nursing facility.

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 the Restoration of Veterans Nursing Facilities.

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

25 (A) The chairperson of the Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
26 Committee;

27 (B) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom
28 shall be designated as chairperson of the committee; and

29 (C) Two members of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

72 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.