

Senate Resolution 394

By: Senators Summers of the 13th, Cowser of the 46th, Anderson of the 24th, Esteves of the 6th and Dugan of the 30th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Creation of a Robust Wagering Ecosystem in
2 the State of Georgia; to study the efficacy of a gaming commission for current and future
3 forms of gambling in the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has long considered multiple legislative
5 measures to allow the voters of Georgia to decide whether to remove the constitutional
6 prohibition on gambling subject to the passage of a legislatively referred state constitutional
7 amendment allowing municipalities and counties to authorize or opt-in to land based
8 destination resort casinos, pari-mutuel and fixed-odds horse racing, and digital, retail, and
9 on-premise sports betting; and

10 WHEREAS, the legalization of gambling in this state when approved by the people and
11 enabled by the General Assembly would contribute to the economy and workforce
12 development of this state; and

13 WHEREAS, the legalization of gambling would also increase tax revenues for Georgia and
14 aid in meeting the budgetary demands of government; and

15 WHEREAS, many of our citizens travel substantial distances to engage in gaming activities
16 and enjoy the resort atmosphere in states such as Nevada, Mississippi, Alabama, North
17 Carolina, and Massachusetts; and

18 WHEREAS, if gambling was expanded in this state, the money spent in other states might
19 remain with the industries and tax revenues of this state; and

20 WHEREAS, the financial implications for the state of such potential legalization as well as
21 previously considered measures by the General Assembly to improve Georgia's economy
22 deserve to be further considered and studied.

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

24 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
25 on the Creation of a Robust Wagering Ecosystem in the State of Georgia.

26 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of ten members. The
27 members of the committee shall be the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Majority
28 Leader of the Senate, the Majority Whip of the Senate, the Majority Caucus Chairperson
29 of the Senate, the chairperson of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism
30 Committee, the chairperson of the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee,
31 and four members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
32 whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate to serve as chairperson of the
33 committee.

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

37 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
38 shall hold at least four public hearings at various locations throughout the state and at

39 least one meeting to discuss and finalize findings. Such hearings and meeting shall be
40 conducted at such places and at such times as deemed necessary or convenient to enable
41 the committee to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
42 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

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

50 **(6) Report.**

51 The committee shall adopt specific findings or recommendations that include proposed
52 legislation, and the chairperson shall file a report of the same prior to the date of
53 abolishment specified in this resolution.

54 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.