

Senate Resolution 769

By: Senators Stone of the 23rd, Payne of the 54th, Robertson of the 29th, Anderson of the 24th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Domestic Violence Courts Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, domestic violence continues to be a severe issue on the national, state, and local
3 levels; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a coordinated community response to domestic violence is the standard for
5 successfully protecting victims and holding offenders accountable in domestic violence
6 cases; and
- 7 WHEREAS, a coordinated community response involves domestic violence stakeholders
8 who operate in an informed, interconnected way to respond to domestic violence in the
9 community; and
- 10 WHEREAS, developing and establishing a specialized court operation in domestic violence
11 cases can provide a consistent response to domestic violence by the judicial system, support
12 for victims of domestic violence, due process for defendants, and offender accountability;
13 and
- 14 WHEREAS, with specialized training, dedicated judges and staff gain expertise in domestic
15 violence, which ensure more consistency in the handling of domestic violence cases; and
- 16 WHEREAS, specialized domestic violence courts can improve and streamline the delivery
17 of services and resources available to domestic violence victims and their children, as well
18 as increase the coordination of offender accountability in domestic violence cases; and
- 19 WHEREAS, study is needed on establishing state-wide standards for the operation of
20 domestic violence court divisions, including, but not limited to, basic components needed for
21 domestic violence court divisions, requirements for operations, and within which agency
22 oversight is best suited.

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

24 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Domestic
25 Violence Courts Study Committee.

26 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
27 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
28 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

43 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

57 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.