

Senate Resolution 203

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Harbison of the 15th, Rahman of the 5th, Merritt of the 9th,
Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Safe Firearm Storage Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, securely storing firearms is one way to decrease firearm violence and accidental
3 death; and
- 4 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 5.4 million American children live in homes with access to
5 at least one firearm that is loaded and unlocked; and
- 6 WHEREAS, every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and
7 unintentionally shoot themselves; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in school shooting incidents, up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18
9 gained access to the firearm they used from within their home or the home of a friend or
10 relative; and
- 11 WHEREAS, pediatric physicians routinely screen parents with a scripted questionnaire
12 relating to access in the home to firearms, chemicals, and other potentially dangerous items;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the committee should undertake the study of current pediatric screening
15 protocols relating to safe storage of firearms, as well as an examination of the benefits
16 associated with safe storage mandates; and

17 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine if changes to state laws relating to firearm storage
18 and access to firearms by children are necessary and whether funding for grants or pilot
19 programs promoting safe firearm storage are warranted.

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

21 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Safe Firearm
22 Storage Study Committee.

23 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of three members of the
24 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall also appoint an
25 additional two nonlegislative members of the committee as follows: a representative of a
26 gun safety advocacy group and a licensed pediatric physician. The President shall
27 designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 (6) **Report.**

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

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

62 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
63 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

64 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
65 the Secretary of the Senate.

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

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