

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to HR 1042:

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in recent years, Georgia has seen a notable increase in unsheltered or street
3 homelessness and homeless encampments; and
- 4 WHEREAS, current homeless encampments pose a threat to the well-being of nearby
5 residents, businesses, and the homeless themselves; and
- 6 WHEREAS, any effort to alleviate the problems of unsheltered homelessness will have to
7 consider the prevalence of mental illness and substance use disorders among this group; and
- 8 WHEREAS, all Georgians, including the unsheltered homeless, have a right to public safety.
- 9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
- 10 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
11 on Unsheltered Homelessness.
- 12 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
13 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives; the commissioner of community affairs, or his or her designee; and the

15 commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities, or his or her designee.
16 The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.
17 The Speaker may appoint up to two additional citizen members with relevant experience or
18 expertise.

19 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
20 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
21 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. In particular, the
22 committee shall:

23 (A) Study the increase in unsheltered homelessness in Georgia and its capital city,
24 Atlanta;

25 (B) Assess the evidence for the success or failure of different policies in reducing street
26 homelessness;

27 (C) Solicit input from neighborhood groups, police, homeless nonprofit organizations,
28 affected businesses, drug rehabilitation and mental health groups, and municipal
29 leaders;

30 (D) Develop specific recommendations on the enforcement of bans on camping and
31 sleeping in public spaces, new types of state and local contracts with homeless
32 nonprofit organizations, and the necessity for new state laws dealing with
33 homelessness; and

34 (E) Develop specific recommendations on reducing unsheltered homelessness,
35 camping and sleeping in public spaces, and identify best practices, laws, and resources
36 to support short and long term solutions proven effective in dealing with homelessness.

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

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

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

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

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

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

61 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

71 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
72 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

73 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
74 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
75 thereof.

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