

Senate Resolution 1170

By: Senators Hill of the 4th and Tillery of the 19th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Local Government Fees; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, many people argue that the persons creating the costs of providing services by
3 local governments should bear the costs of such services, while others argue that such
4 services are a part of government which all of the taxpayers should fund; and

5 WHEREAS, this philosophy of having the people who create the need for services fund such
6 services has led to the development of numerous fees at the local government level; and

7 WHEREAS, some notable examples of such fees are storm-water management fees, which
8 are assessed on a property based on the area of impervious surfaces located on the property;
9 fire service fees, which are imposed on all buildings in a jurisdiction; and the many add-on
10 fees imposed for traffic violations and other court cases for various purposes; and

11 WHEREAS, some have questioned whether these fees are fairly and equitably imposed and
12 whether the revenue generated by such fees is being appropriately used and directed for the
13 purposes for which it is intended; and

14 WHEREAS, a study of such fees is needed to ensure that this method of financing local
15 government services is fair and equitable and is being properly used by local governments
16 in Georgia.

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

18 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
19 on Local Government Fees.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
21 Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall
22 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

37 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

51 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.