

Senate Resolution 1171

By: Senator McKoon of the 29th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Judicial Qualifications Commission Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Judicial Qualifications Commission was created by constitutional
4 amendment in 1972 to conduct investigations and hears with respect to complaints of ethical
5 misconduct by Georgia judges and is also authorized to issue advisory opinions regarding
6 appropriate judicial conduct; and

7 WHEREAS, a review of the policies and procedures that the Judicial Qualifications
8 Commission employs to investigate alleged ethical misconduct of state judges and a review
9 of the process of selection of Judicial Qualifications Commission members is needed; and

10 WHEREAS, studying ways to improve transparency and accountability of the Judicial
11 Qualifications Commission and identifying additional resources to assist the Judicial
12 Qualifications Commission in accomplishing its mission will improve public trust in the
13 judicial system.

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

15 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Judicial
16 Qualifications Commission Study Committee.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
18 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate; provided, however, that one such
19 member shall be the chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee who shall serve as
20 chairperson of the committee.

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

24 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
25 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

26 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
27 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

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

35 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

49 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.