

Senate Resolution 546

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Parent of the 42nd, Halpern of the 39th, Orrock of the 36th, Jones II of the 22nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Colorectal Cancer Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer and cases of
3 young-onset colorectal cancer are increasing; and

4 WHEREAS, the National Cancer Institute reports that since the 1990s the rate of colon
5 cancer has more than doubled for adults younger than 50. Americans in their 20s and 30s
6 are seeing the steepest rise in distant-stage colorectal cancer when later-stage tumors have
7 spread to other sites in the body; and

8 WHEREAS, there were nearly 104,000 Americans between the ages of 20 and 54 who
9 developed colorectal cancer between 2000 and 2016; and

10 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is more likely to be lethal in children and young adults than
11 middle-aged adults, and in the U.S., Black Americans have a 20 percent higher incidence of
12 colorectal cancer than non-Hispanic white people and are 40 percent more likely to die of the
13 disease; and

14 WHEREAS, the rising rate of young-onset colorectal cancer prompted a major change in
15 official screening guidelines when the recommended age to start colorectal cancer screening
16 dropped from 50 to 45 years old for people at average risk; however, there are still many
17 young adults dying from this disease because they waited too late to get screened; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer Institute, about 18,000 people younger than
19 50 were diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2020, and over the next decade, colorectal
20 cancer incidence among those younger than 50 is expected to nearly double and is on track
21 to becoming the leading cause of cancer related death in those younger than 50; and

22 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates there will be 152,810 new cases of
23 colorectal cancer and 53,010 deaths from the disease in 2024, and there will be 4,940 new
24 cases of colorectal cancer in Georgia and 1,660 deaths from the disease in 2024; and

25 WHEREAS, the lack of preventive care could play a major role in the diagnosis of
26 advanced-stage colorectal cancer, and one death from colorectal cancer is one too many
27 when, if detected early, it is one of the most treatable cancers; and

28 WHEREAS, lowering the recommended age for initial screening is an important step in
29 lowering colorectal cancer rates and reducing the number of young adult deaths due to
30 colorectal cancer; and

31 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer may develop without symptoms, and screening is the number
32 one way to prevent or detect this disease early when it is most treatable; and

33 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for policymakers on the local, state, and federal levels
34 to raise awareness of young-onset colorectal cancer and its disproportionate impact on

35 minorities and to develop and support policies in the medical and insurance communities that
36 encourage changing the recommended age for initial colonoscopy screenings for average-risk
37 people and for first-degree relatives of those with colorectal cancer.

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

39 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Colorectal Cancer
40 Study Committee.

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

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

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

51 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
52 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
53 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
54 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
55 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
56 appropriated to the Senate.

57 (6) **Report.**

58 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
59 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

60 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
61 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

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

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

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

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

71 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.