

Senate Resolution 1007

By: Senators Cowsert of the 46th, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th, Albers of the 56th, Jones II of the 22nd and others

**ADOPTED SENATE**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Creating the Senate Law Enforcement Reform Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, both the public and members of the law enforcement community recognize that  
3 the time has come to engage in a comprehensive review and study of law enforcement  
4 techniques, patterns, and practices; and

5 WHEREAS, the study of data and information related to use of force, traffic stops, street  
6 stops, and arrests can be instructive for any needed revisions to laws in this state; and

7 WHEREAS, policing that is fair, equal, respectful of the constitutional rights of the people,  
8 compassionate where it can be, and forceful only when necessary is a goal worthy of  
9 furthering justice and public safety; and

10 WHEREAS, members of the law enforcement community put their lives in danger to provide  
11 protection to citizens and to maintain a safe community for the public and business  
12 community and are often underpaid, undertrained, and underappreciated; and

13 WHEREAS, study is needed to gather information and to identify any areas where state laws  
14 need to be revised concerning law enforcement to address:

15 (1) Oversight;

16 (2) Lethal and nonlethal use of force;

17 (3) Practices which may need to be prohibited or more strictly regulated, including, but  
18 not limited to, the use of chokeholds and strangleholds, no knock warrants, and certain  
19 chemicals or projectiles in response to crowd control during demonstrations and protests;

20 (4) Training and techniques for de-escalation;

21 (5) Collection and reporting of data and information necessary to ensure equality under  
22 the law and the identification of patterns and practices which run counter to that bedrock  
23 idea; and

24 (6) Shaping of policing and law enforcement for the future in a posture of equality in the  
25 enforcement of laws and administration of justice.

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

27 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Law Enforcement  
28 Reform Study Committee.

29 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the chairperson of the  
30 Senate Judiciary Committee, the chairperson of the Senate Public Safety Committee, and  
31 three members of the Senate who shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

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

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

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

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

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

46 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

60 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 15, 2020.