

Senate Resolution 803

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Prevention of Unhealthy Puppies and Protection  
2 of Ethical Retail Sales; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a puppy mill is a large-scale commercial dog breeding operation where profit  
4 is given priority over the well-being of the dogs; and

5 WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are some 10,000 puppy mills in the United States,  
6 only 2,024 of which are licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

7 WHEREAS, these 10,000 operations are responsible for the sale of 2.15 million puppies in  
8 the United States each year; and

9 WHEREAS, puppy mill breeding dogs are often bred with very little recovery time between  
10 litters and, once the breeding dogs are no longer able to produce puppies, they are often  
11 killed; and

12 WHEREAS, puppy mill breeding dogs and their puppies receive minimal, if any, veterinary  
13 care, even when they're injured or sick and are housed in small, dirty, overcrowded cages

14 often without adequate nutrition, water, or fresh air. Some are left outside in cages without  
15 any protection from heat, wind, rain, or cold weather; and

16 WHEREAS, puppy mill puppies are often sold as young as eight weeks old, to brokers or  
17 retailers or even directly to the public through websites, newspaper classifieds, or at flea  
18 markets, thereby circumventing regulation and enforcement designed to protect both animals  
19 and consumers; and

20 WHEREAS, many puppy mill puppies are sickly when they arrive at the pet store or in their  
21 new home. The most common illnesses reported by consumers who purchased suspected  
22 puppy mill puppies include: intestinal parasites, respiratory issues, parvovirus, canine  
23 distemper, ear issues, skin disorders, and urinary and bladder issues; and

24 WHEREAS, Georgia consumers who unwittingly purchase sick puppies have little to no  
25 recourse under current law, and are offered no guarantees, notices of rights, or information  
26 pertaining to the source or health of puppies or breeding dogs.

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

28 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee  
29 on Prevention of Unhealthy Puppies and Protection of Ethical Retail Sales.

30 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members to be  
31 appointed by the majority leader 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.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive  
40 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia  
41 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any  
42 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.  
43 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
44 appropriated to the Senate.

45 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

59 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2022.