

Senate Resolution 1190

By: Senator McKoon of the 29th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Power Grid Protection; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the potential for an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack is perhaps our most
3 serious national and state security threat, one with catastrophic consequences for virtually
4 all aspects of life; and

5 WHEREAS, an EMP can devastate the transformers that are the backbone of the power grid
6 and such pulses can be generated by short-range radio frequency weapons or over very long
7 distances by a nuclear weapon detonated high above the Earth; and

8 WHEREAS, the anticipated effects of an EMP on an unprotected electrical grid are thought
9 by experts to include the loss of the electrical system itself and all of the infrastructures that
10 rely on it – basically everything that makes a twenty-first century society function, such as
11 food, transportation, water, medicine, telecommunications, and finance; and

12 WHEREAS, an EMP attack could also result in a huge loss of life with some estimating that
13 as many as nine out of ten people would die should power be lost for over a year; and

14 WHEREAS, Maine has become the first state in the nation to pass legislation ordering its
15 grid to be hardened against an electromagnetic pulse; and

16 WHEREAS, it is important to look at what possible countermeasures are being implemented
17 or could be implemented to harden this state's power grid, communications, and other critical
18 electrical circuitry from solar and terrorist EMP events; and

19 WHEREAS, coordinated EMP response and recovery plans that are incorporated into other
20 disaster scenarios are also important; and

21 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to undertake a study to determine whether it would be
22 appropriate to enact legislation making new provisions or changing provisions of current law
23 of this state with regard to the power grid and emergency response systems.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
25 Study Committee on Power Grid Protection to be composed of three members of the Senate
26 to be appointed by the President of the Senate. Such members shall include the Chairperson
27 of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The
28 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
30 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
31 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
32 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
33 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
34 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
35 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
36 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
37 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized
38 by the President of the Senate. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
39 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee
40 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
41 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2014. The committee
42 shall stand abolished on December 1, 2014.