

House Resolution 1321

By: Representatives Cox of the 108th, Cooper of the 43rd, Lott of the 122nd, Cannon of the 58th, and Spencer of the 180th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on High Risk Exposure to HIV and Hepatitis B and C;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, HIV and hepatitis B and C are declared to be contagious, infectious,
4 communicable, and dangerous to the public health; and

5 WHEREAS, certain occupations pose a high risk of exposure to HIV and hepatitis B and C,
6 including law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, and firefighters; and

7 WHEREAS, if a person infected or suspected of being infected with one of these diseases
8 does not give consent to testing when there has been a significant exposure, such exposed
9 individual is put at risk; for example, a law enforcement officer who comes in contact with
10 an arrestee's bodily fluids in the course of an arrest; and

11 WHEREAS, if the person is reasonably likely to be infected with one of these diseases, there
12 is a compelling need to protect the public health and to require a blood test of such
13 individual; and

14 WHEREAS, under Georgia law, there are already instances in which a court may order that
15 a person to submit to an HIV test, including when a juvenile is committed to the Department
16 of Juvenile Justice, when an individual is arrested or convicted for sexual assault, when the
17 Department of Public Health identifies a threat to public health, and when an individual is
18 entering prison; and

19 WHEREAS, further, state law gives emergency medical technicians, firefighters, and public
20 safety workers the right to get vaccinated if they think they've been exposed to hepatitis B
21 or C; and

22 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to examine proper protocols and funding resources for
23 state, county, and city employees who may be subject to significant exposure to HIV and
24 hepatitis B and C and to determine whether further protection in the form of mandatory blood
25 tests for source individuals or other protections should be put in place.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

27 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
28 on High Risk Exposure to HIV and Hepatitis B and C.

29 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
30 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
31 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
32 of the committee.

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

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

40 (5) **Allowances and funding.** Members of the committee who are members of the
41 General Assembly shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of
42 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution
43 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless
44 additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
45 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

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 Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

61 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.