

The House Committee on Human Relations and Aging offers the following substitute to HR 141:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Expanding Long-Term Care Options; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census
4 of 2020 for the State of Georgia, Georgia has the ninth fastest-growing 60 and older
5 population and more than 20 percent of Georgia's population will be 60 or older by 2030; and

6 WHEREAS, the portion of Georgia population that is 65 and older is expected to grow
7 substantially from 1.7 million in 2020 to 2.8 million in 2040, with the greatest rate of growth
8 among those 80 and older; and

9 WHEREAS, studies show that 33 percent of aging and older adults will at some time require
10 the level of care offered by a skilled nursing care facility, confirming a need for Georgia to
11 retain a viable spectrum of care that includes skilled nursing; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia nursing home beds grew by a mere 0.63 percent from 40,237 in
13 September 2015, to 40,493 in September 2021, and six of the 12 State Service Delivery
14 Regions forecast continued shortfalls in skilled nursing beds available, ranging from a deficit
15 of 17 percent to 91 percent; and

16 WHEREAS, approximately 72 percent of nursing home residents in Georgia use Medicaid
17 to pay for their nursing home care; and

18 WHEREAS, nearly 30 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Georgia occurred in nursing homes
19 and assisted living facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, the 38 percent death rate among the 1 percent of Americans living in nursing
21 homes has led to a national desire to explore alternative and better models of care; and

22 WHEREAS, federal regulations issued by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services
23 for nursing homes were extensively revised in 2016, putting person-centered care, built on
24 and operated with respect for the individual's care, dignity, and quality of life as a central
25 theme; and

26 WHEREAS, person-centered, household models of care offer small, intentional
27 communities, larger communal areas, private bedrooms and baths, and a space that feels and
28 functions more like a real home; and

29 WHEREAS, studies show that person-centered care adopted in a comprehensive way without
30 compromising appropriate levels of care lead to clinically significant positive impacts on
31 residential health and quality of life; and

32 WHEREAS, having diverse options of long-term care in the community is beneficial to
33 consumers and their quality of life and to taxpayers; and

34 WHEREAS, options can be explored to use Medicaid reimbursement rates or other public
35 or private reimbursement models to incentivize the adoption of person-centered models that
36 elevate care in Georgia; and

37 WHEREAS, options can be explored to reduce healthcare costs to patients and public and
38 private payers by providing lower cost models of care; and

39 WHEREAS, burdensome rules and regulations increase costs and have a profound impact
40 on the availability and accessibility of private sector and government-reimbursed long-term
41 care; and

42 WHEREAS, financing options such as state tax credits and local tax allocation districts are
43 available tools to pursue changes which would elevate and expand long-term care available
44 to Georgians.

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

46 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
47 on Expanding Long-Term Care Options.

48 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
49 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
50 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
51 of the committee.

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

55 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
56 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

57 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
58 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

59 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
60 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
61 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
62 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
63 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
64 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

65 (6) **Report.**

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

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

73 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
74 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
75 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
76 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

80 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.