

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 259:

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Johnny Tolbert III House Study Committee on Heat-Related Injuries, Cardiac
- 2 Injuries, and Other Sports-Related Injuries; and for other purposes.
  
- 3 WHEREAS, the leading cause of death among young athletes nationally is sudden cardiac
- 4 arrest; and
  
- 5 WHEREAS, in recent years, Georgia has had heat-related football deaths to both youth and
- 6 high school athletes; and
  
- 7 WHEREAS, in 2016, 12-year-old Johnny Tolbert III died from heatstroke during football
- 8 practice for a youth recreation team at Welcome All Park in South Fulton, Georgia; and
  
- 9 WHEREAS, in 2015, Burke County High School football player Roddrick "Rod" Williams
- 10 died shortly after football practice in Waynesboro, Georgia, from heat-related injuries; and
  
- 11 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimated that 1,442,533 injuries
- 12 occurred among high school athletes participating in practice or competitions for football,
- 13 wrestling, soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and softball; and
  
- 14 WHEREAS, there are documented health benefits of increased physical activity, including
- 15 weight management, improved self-esteem, and increased strength, endurance, and
- 16 flexibility; and
  
- 17 WHEREAS, taking part in sports and recreational activities is an important part of a healthy,
- 18 physically active lifestyle for kids, but injuries can and do occur. Accordingly, the CDC
- 19 reports more than 2.6 million children 0-19 years old are treated in the emergency
- 20 department each year for sports and recreational related injuries; and

21 WHEREAS, the CDC published a study in 2010 that found heat illness to be the leading  
22 cause of death and disabilities among high school athletes. The CDC estimated that an  
23 average of more than 9,000 heat-related illnesses occur annually among high school athletes;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study injuries related to sports and recreational  
26 activities to protect both youth and high school athletes from serious or even catastrophic  
27 injuries or illnesses.

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

29 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the Johnny Tolbert III House  
30 Study Committee on Heat-Related Injuries, Cardiac Injuries, and Other Sports-Related  
31 Injuries.

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

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

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

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

49 (6) **Report.**

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

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

57 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
58 abolition specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
59 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
60 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

64 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.