

House Resolution 428

By: Representatives Gaines of the 117th, Wiedower of the 119th, Dempsey of the 13th, Jones of the 25th, and Mainor of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, mental illnesses are among the most common health conditions in the United
4 States; and

5 WHEREAS, substance use and addiction can contribute to the development of mental illness;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, over 2.3 million individuals live with mental illness, yet Georgia ranks 47 out
8 of 50 states for access to mental health care, resources, and insurance; and

9 WHEREAS, more than 340,000 adults and 100,000 children in Georgia live with serious
10 mental health conditions; and

11 WHEREAS, in Georgia, an individual with serious mental illness has a one in five chance
12 of ending up in prison instead of a hospital; and

13 WHEREAS, addiction to drugs and alcohol is a mental illness better known as "substance
14 use disorder"; and

15 WHEREAS, drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental deaths in the United States,
16 with opioids being the most common drug; and

17 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to explore ways to ensure greater partnership between
18 nonprofit organizations and agencies to provide greater services, identify the best
19 investments and best practices in mental health and substance use disorders, and determine
20 the optimal use of funding to best serve our communities.

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

22 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
23 on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder.

24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
25 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
27 of the committee.

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

31 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
32 may 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.

35 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
36 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia

37 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
38 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
39 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
40 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

41 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

56 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.