

House Resolution 43

By: Representatives Au of the 50th, Lim of the 98th, Holcomb of the 81st, Barnes of the 86th, Clark of the 108th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Costs and Effects of Smoking Joint Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, smoking leads to disease and disability and harms nearly every organ of the
3 body; and
- 4 WHEREAS, more than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking;
5 and
- 6 WHEREAS, for every person who dies because of smoking, at least 30 people live with a
7 serious smoking related illness; and
- 8 WHEREAS, smoking causes cancer, heart disease, vascular disease, lung diseases, diabetes,
9 and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic
10 bronchitis. Smoking also increases risk for tuberculosis, certain eye diseases, and problems
11 of the immune system, including rheumatoid arthritis; and
- 12 WHEREAS, secondhand smoke exposure contributes to approximately 41,000 deaths among
13 nonsmoking adults and 400 deaths in infants each year. Secondhand smoke causes stroke,
14 lung cancer, coronary heart disease, and reproductive health complications in adults.

15 Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk for sudden infant death
16 syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, middle ear disease, more severe asthma,
17 respiratory symptoms, and slowed lung growth; and

18 WHEREAS, smoking related illness in the United States costs more than \$300 billion each
19 year, including more than \$225 billion for direct medical care for adults and more than \$156
20 billion in lost productivity, including \$5.6 billion in lost productivity due to secondhand
21 smoke exposure; and

22 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to examine the cost of smoking, including short-term and
23 long-term health care costs, the impact on Medicaid and Medicare, childhood health costs
24 resulting from secondhand smoke exposure, and the loss of worker productivity attributed
25 to smoking.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 GEORGIA:

28 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Costs and Effects of
29 Smoking Joint Study Committee.

30 (2) **Members and officers.**

31 (A) The committee shall be composed of ten members.

32 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the
33 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
34 members as cochairperson.

35 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate as members
36 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

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

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

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

50 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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