

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 627:

#### A RESOLUTION

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

3 WHEREAS, there is an unmet need in this state for programs that provide temporary  
4 long-term residential mental health treatment, mental health counseling, and treatment  
5 alternatives; and

6 WHEREAS, this state has a long history of protecting its vulnerable citizens and the public  
7 at large while also supporting a patient's right to choose the most appropriate treatment  
8 modalities; and

9 WHEREAS, exploring the potential for more effective mental health treatments would  
10 directly impact this state's rates of homelessness, suicide, and overcrowding in our  
11 correctional institutions while helping to stabilize families and communities; and

12 WHEREAS, the absence of an adequate number of such treatments and programs poses  
13 increased risks to communities, families, and the patients themselves; and

14 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of this state to periodically review and  
15 evaluate all available funding resources to meet the mental health needs of Georgians; and

16 WHEREAS, a study needs to be undertaken with a focus on possible methods of financing  
17 such services.

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

19 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
20 on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment.

21 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
22 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of

23 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson  
24 of the committee.

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

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

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

38 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

53 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.