

House Resolution 640

By: Representatives Broadrick of the 4th, Gardner of the 57th, Tanner of the 9th, Clark of the 101st, Jasperse of the 11th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Health, Education, and School-Based Health Centers;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there is a profound connection between a student's health status and educational
4 achievement; and

5 WHEREAS, improving and maintaining health so that students are present, engaged, and
6 hopeful is critical to their academic success; and

7 WHEREAS, school-based health centers are an evidence-based model of health care that
8 address the complex health care needs of underserved children and adolescents; and

9 WHEREAS, school-based health centers support improved education outcomes; and

10 WHEREAS, school-based health centers improve academic achievement by improving the
11 physical and mental status of students, thereby raising attendance rates, increasing seat time,
12 reducing dropout rates, and improving classroom attention and behavior, all of which
13 improve school climate; and

14 WHEREAS, school-based health centers promote positive youth development by helping to
15 reduce risky behaviors, such as alcohol and drug abuse; and

16 WHEREAS, school-based health centers are organized through collaboration among schools,
17 communities, and health providers; and

18 WHEREAS, school-based health centers utilize an interdisciplinary team approach to
19 providing access to coordinated primary health care within the context of family and
20 community; and

21 WHEREAS, school-based health centers operate exclusively for the purpose of providing
22 health services, such as primary care, preventive health care, management and monitoring
23 of chronic health conditions, behavioral health care, oral health care, and health promotion
24 services; and

25 WHEREAS, school-based health centers can be the first, and at times the only, access point
26 for continuous and comprehensive care for children with a variety of complex medical,
27 behavioral, and social needs; and

28 WHEREAS, school-based health centers can reduce emergency room use and
29 hospitalizations and provide access to and increase use of primary care, especially among
30 children with chronic diseases, such as asthma; and

31 WHEREAS, school-based health centers have been proven to reduce costs to the Medicaid
32 program through reductions in pharmacy costs, emergency department visits,
33 hospitalizations, and use of non-emergency transportation; and

34 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks 42nd among the states in its development of school-based health
35 centers.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
37 GEORGIA:

38 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
39 Health, Education, and School-Based Health Centers.

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

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

42 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the
43 House of Representatives as members of the committee, one of whom shall be a
44 member of the minority party, and shall designate one of such members as
45 cochairperson.

46 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate as members
47 of the committee, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and shall
48 designate one of such members as cochairperson.

49 (D) The committee may elect other officers as deemed necessary.

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

53 may designate and appoint subcommittees from among the membership of the committee
54 and may also appoint other persons to perform such functions as they may determine to
55 be necessary as relevant to and consistent with this resolution.

56 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The
57 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
58 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform
59 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The
60 cochairpersons shall only vote to break a tie. A quorum for transacting business shall be
61 a majority of the members of the committee.

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

68 (6) **Report.**

69 (A) The committee shall make recommendations regarding the creation of a state-wide
70 plan to promote development and funding of comprehensive school-based health
71 centers in underserved communities in Georgia. The cochairpersons shall file a report
72 regarding such recommendations prior to the date of abolishment specified in this
73 resolution.

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

78 (C) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk
79 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes
80 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

81 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.