

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 640:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Health, Education, and School-Based Health
2 Centers; 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

39 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members. The
40 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the House of
41 Representatives as members of the committee, one of whom shall be a member of the
42 minority party, and shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The committee
43 may elect other officers as deemed necessary.

44 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
45 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
46 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The chairperson may
47 designate and appoint subcommittees from among the membership of the committee and
48 may also appoint other persons to perform such functions as he or she may determine to
49 be necessary as relevant to and consistent with this resolution.

50 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
51 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
52 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and

53 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The chairperson shall only vote
54 to break a tie. A quorum for transacting business shall be a majority of the members of
55 the committee.

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

62 (6) **Report.**

63 (A) The committee shall make recommendations regarding the creation of a state-wide
64 plan to promote development and funding of comprehensive school-based health
65 centers in underserved communities in Georgia. The chairperson shall file a report
66 regarding such recommendations prior to the date of abolishment specified in this
67 resolution.

68 (B) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
69 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
70 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
71 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

72 (C) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
73 House of Representatives copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
74 thereof.

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