

House Resolution 651

By: Representatives Hutchinson of the 107th, Cooper of the 43rd, Oliver of the 82nd, Beverly of the 143rd, and Schofield of the 60th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Evaluating, Simplifying, and Eliminating
2 Duplication of Regulatory Requirements for Mental Health and Social Services Providers;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the mental health and social welfare of its citizens are of primary importance
5 to the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, the ever-rising costs of medical care is one of the most critical issues facing
7 citizens throughout Georgia and our nation today; and

8 WHEREAS, access to mental health services and social services has a direct impact on the
9 lives and well-being of the residents of this state; and

10 WHEREAS, mental health providers and social services providers in this state are faced with
11 the daunting task of navigating through the regulations of the Department of Community
12 Health, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the
13 Department of Family and Children Services, and the Department of Juvenile Justice in
14 addition to the requirements imposed by others such as the Medicaid care management
15 organizations, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, the Joint

16 Commission on Mental Illness and Health, and the Drug Abuse and Treatment Education
17 Program; and

18 WHEREAS, there is much duplication between such agencies and organizations as to the
19 regulatory requirements, auditing, and monitoring of mental health providers and social
20 services providers; and

21 WHEREAS, such overlap and duplication result in unnecessary expenditures of funds and
22 resources by such agencies and organizations, as well as the mental health providers and
23 social services providers without any tangible benefit to the citizens of the State of Georgia;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the secondary and tertiary costs to this state are more than just monetary but
26 also include a decrease in the provision of mental health and social services which has been
27 shown to lead to an increase in violent crimes and higher rates of emotional and behavioral
28 disorders in schools as a result of untreated mental illness; and

29 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the current mental health and social services
30 systems and the various regulations and requirements imposed upon the providers in these
31 areas and identify any possible changes to such systems to address areas of duplicative and
32 unnecessary regulations, requirements, and expenditures.

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

34 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
35 on Evaluating, Simplifying, and Eliminating Duplication of Regulatory Requirements for
36 Mental Health and Social Services Providers.

37 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
38 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
39 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
40 of the committee.

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

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

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

54 (6) **Report.**

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

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

62 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
63 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

64 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
65 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

69 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.