

House Resolution 725

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Stephens of the 164th, Parrish of the 158th, Trammell of the 132nd, and Newton of the 123rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the policy recommendations and outcomes of co-prescribing naloxone with
2 opioids; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has a considerable moral, public health, and financial
4 interest in reducing opioid overdose across the State of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, it is medically documented that Georgia has approximately 526,410 residents
6 at risk for opioid prescription overdose and that opioid addictions are harmful to the patient
7 and expensive to address; and

8 WHEREAS, opioid prescription drug addiction interferes with an individual's ability to work
9 and to provide for a stable and healthy family; the state's opioid epidemic damages the health
10 of families and children and affects the chances that a child will receive a healthy upbringing;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic has led to emergency room visits (3,174 in 2017) and
13 hospitalizations (1,790 in 2017), increasing roughly 80 percent from 2016 to 2017, costing
14 the state excessive amounts of money; and

15 WHEREAS, requiring medical providers to inform patients of the risks associated with
16 opioid prescription drug use can help to reduce opioid prescription drug addictions in the
17 state; policies that reduce the number of people who become addicted to opioids will better
18 serve citizens of the state and foster healthier families; and

19 WHEREAS, patients with a history of substance use disorder, concurrent use of opioids and
20 benzodiazepines or nonbenzodiazepine sedative hypnotics, or other factors, such as
21 drug-using friends or family have a higher chance of overdose if opioids continue to be
22 prescribed singularly; the CDC states patients on greater than 50 morphine milligram
23 equivalents (MME) of opioid are at increased risk for overdose; and

24 WHEREAS, co-prescribing naloxone can help to minimize the opioid epidemic within the
25 state, ultimately leading to better health outcomes for the patients and families; and

26 WHEREAS, integrating naloxone with at-risk opioid prescriptions is widely supported by
27 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the American Medical
28 Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and
29 Medicaid Services, the World Health Organization, the American Heart Association, the
30 American Pharmacists Association, and others.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body recognize the policy recommendations and outcomes of
33 co-prescribing mentioned herein.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
36 public and the press.