

## House Resolution 823

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>, Beverly of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Pharmacy Deserts; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, a "pharmacy desert" means a geographic area where access to a pharmacy is  
3 limited; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a pharmacy desert includes a rural town or urban neighborhood in which at least  
5 25 percent of the households have income below the federal poverty level or where the  
6 median family income is not more than 80 percent of the median family income in Georgia;  
7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, a pharmacy desert also includes a rural town, urban neighborhood, or  
9 metropolitan census tract in which at least 500 residents live or at least 33 percent of the  
10 population resides, which is more than one mile away from any pharmacy; and
- 11 WHEREAS, a pharmacy desert includes nonmetropolitan census tracts in which at least 500  
12 residents live or 33 percent of the population resides, which are more than ten miles away  
13 from any pharmacy; and
- 14 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the citizens of this state to:

- 15 (1) Identify pharmacy deserts in Georgia;
- 16 (2) Examine existing public and private programs in Georgia and other states that  
17 address the problem of pharmacy deserts, including programs that specifically address  
18 pharmacy deserts in rural and urban areas;
- 19 (3) Identify programs and other solutions to eliminate pharmacy deserts in Georgia,  
20 including public, private, and public-private partnerships; and
- 21 (4) Identify sources of revenue for pharmacy desert programs.

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

- 23 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
24 on Pharmacy Deserts.
- 25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
26 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson  
28 of the committee.
- 29 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
30 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
31 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 32 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee  
33 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
34 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
35 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
- 36 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive  
37 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia  
38 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any  
39 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.

40 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
41 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

42 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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