

House Resolution 828

By: Representatives Houston of the 170th, England of the 116th, Parrish of the 158th, Dempsey of the 13th, Taylor of the 173rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Provision of Indigent and Charity Health Care
2 Services; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2013, Georgia's local hospitals provided Georgians more than \$1.7 billion
4 in uncompensated care; and

5 WHEREAS, all health care provider types are impacted by uncompensated care in some
6 way; and

7 WHEREAS, acute care hospitals have obligations that are unique from all other types of
8 health care providers as they are compelled under a host of legal requirements to screen and
9 stabilize every emergency patient regardless of their ability to pay; and

10 WHEREAS, the state has 1.6 million uninsured citizens and millions more that are
11 underinsured; and

12 WHEREAS, payments to hospitals meant to help cover the cost of providing services to the
13 uninsured only cover 23 percent of the cost of care; and

14 WHEREAS, 1.64 million Georgians are enrolled in the Medicaid program; and

15 WHEREAS, Medicaid payments to hospitals only cover 84 percent of the cost of care; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study and collect information and data from the
17 Department of Community Health on the indigent and charity health care requirements and
18 other mandates placed on health care providers by the state to protect access to care for all
19 Georgians; and

20 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study and collect information and data relating to the
21 provision of indigent and charity care and other uncompensated care by Georgia's health care
22 providers, how such care is financed, and the impact of uncompensated care on the ability
23 of hospitals and other health care providers to meet the needs of their communities.

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

25 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
26 on the Provision of Indigent and Charity Health Care Services.

27 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of nine members of the
28 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
29 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint additional nonlegislative members of the
30 committee as follows:

31 (A) A representative of the Georgia Hospital Association;

32 (B) A representative of the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals;

33 (C) A representative of HomeTown Health;

34 (D) A representative of the Medical Association of Georgia;

35 (E) A representative of the Independent Doctors of Georgia; and

36 (F) A representative of a cancer destination hospital.

37 Only the legislative members shall be entitled to vote. The Speaker shall designate one
38 of the legislative appointees as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

46 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

47 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
48 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

49 (B) Nonlegislative members of the committee shall receive a daily expense allowance
50 in an amount the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of
51 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation
52 allowance authorized for state employees.

53 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
54 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds

55 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
56 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

57 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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