

The House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs offers the following substitute to HR 896:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Alternative Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
2 Treatment Resources for Veterans; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, major depressive disorder (MDD) is very common in veterans with
4 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

5 WHEREAS, the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program (EHVP) has been providing intensive
6 outpatient treatment for PTSD veterans for six years, and has 14 psychologists who
7 specialize in PTSD treatment for veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, the EHVP has experience in both veteran treatment and psychedelic treatments,
9 and studies show substantial evidence that supports psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy for
10 the treatment of depressive disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, current research on psilocybin trials excludes patients with a history of
12 substance abuse, and research further indicates that psilocybin therapy can enhance
13 sobriety-focused psychotherapy for addiction; and

14 WHEREAS, thus the EHVP has vast experience in both veteran treatment and psychedelic
15 treatments, which is unparalleled by any other academic institution in the country.

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

17 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
18 on Alternative Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Resources for Veterans.

19 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members as
20 follows:

21 (A) The chairperson of the House Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee;

22 (B) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated as chairperson of the
24 committee;

25 (C) Two members from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

26 (D) One member from the Georgia Department of Public Health or his or her disignee.

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

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

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

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

37 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
38 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
39 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the

40 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
41 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

42 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
43 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
44 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
45 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
46 employees.

47 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
48 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
49 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
50 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the
51 reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and
52 for the reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds
53 appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

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. Any member of the committee may file a
66 minority report that shall accompany the majority report.

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

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