

Senate Resolution 1063

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Unterman of the 45th, Cowsert of the 46th, Burke of the 11th, Miller of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Certificate of Need Reform; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Georgia's Certificate of Need laws have remained static despite significant
3 changes in the delivery and cost of health care; and

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5 WHEREAS, hospitals, doctors, and other providers must work together to meet the challenge
6 of delivering services with better outcomes at a lower cost; and

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8 WHEREAS, Georgia needs additional health care facilities to meet the needs of patients,
9 particularly in mental health, surgery, and emergency settings; and

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11 WHEREAS, rural hospitals face an ongoing financial crisis, and Certificate of Need policies
12 should be aligned to support the survival and growth of rural hospitals; and

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14 WHEREAS, reforms should preserve the ability of hospitals to continue to provide open
15 access to all patients in a community; and

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17 WHEREAS, legislation accomplishing these goals should be recommended by a study
18 committee and considered by the Georgia State Senate in the 2019 legislative session.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

20 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
21 on Certificate of Need Reform.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 11 members to be
23 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

24 (A) Five members of the Senate of whom at least three members will have active
25 professional backgrounds in health care and at least two members shall be appointed
26 from the minority party. The Lieutenant Governor shall designate a member of the
27 committee as chairperson of the committee.

28 (B) A citizen representative who serves in an executive role in a nonprofit health
29 system;

30 (C) A citizen representative who serves in an executive role in a for-profit health
31 system;

32 (D) A citizen representative who serves in an executive role in a rural hospital;

33 (E) A citizen representative who practices medicine as a full-time employee of a health
34 system;

35 (F) A citizen representative who practices medicine as an independent physician; and

36 (G) A citizen representative who has expertise in health care costs and works in the
37 insurance industry.

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

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

45 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

48 (B) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
49 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
50 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
51 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
52 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 Senate.

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 Secretary of the Senate.
- 69 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
70 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 71 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.