

## Senate Resolution 418

By: Senators James of the 35th, Jackson of the 41st, Davenport of the 44th, Rhett of the 33rd, Tate of the 38th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Access to Podiatrists and Limb Saving Services;
- 2 and for other purposes.
  
- 3 WHEREAS, there is an epidemic of patients developing lower extremity complications due
- 4 to poor circulation, diabetes, and other conditions that result in amputations; and
  
- 5 WHEREAS, in 2019, an estimated 7,000 lower extremity amputations were performed in
- 6 Georgia on patients who had peripheral artery disease (PAD); and
  
- 7 WHEREAS, evidence shows that when podiatrists are part of administering medical and
- 8 surgical care of the lower extremities, outcomes are better, hospitalizations are fewer and
- 9 shorter, and the healthcare system saves billions of dollars annually; and
  
- 10 WHEREAS, podiatrists are the first and last line of defense and advocacy for limb salvage,
- 11 but are too often not included in the assessment and evaluation of patients before amputation;
- 12 and

13 WHEREAS, patients at risk of amputation could benefit greatly from access to podiatrists  
14 that can coordinate with emergency medical physicians, vascular and general surgeons,  
15 cardiologists, and other medical professionals to prevent amputations; and

16 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine how access to podiatry services among those at  
17 risk of amputation can be improved, and how testing, screening, and other preventative  
18 measures, as well as programs to educate and raise awareness of the risks of amputation, can  
19 be developed and implemented to save the limbs of Georgians with PAD and other  
20 conditions that increase the risk of amputation.

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

22 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee  
23 on Access to Podiatrists and Limb Saving Services.

24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
25 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate one  
26 such member as chairperson of the committee.

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 and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive  
35 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia  
36 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any  
37 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.

38 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
39 appropriated to the Senate.

40 **(6) Report.**

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

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

48 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
49 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
50 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
51 the Secretary of the Senate. Any member of the committee may file a minority report  
52 that shall accompany the majority report.

53 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary  
54 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

55 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.