

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services offered the following substitute to SR 772:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Retrospective Emergency Room Policies and  
2 Surprise Billing Practices; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the patients of Georgia should not be dissuaded from going to the emergency  
4 room in a potential emergency due to the potential cost; and

5 WHEREAS, retrospective payment policies and surprise billing practices for emergency care  
6 put Georgia patients at risk; and

7 WHEREAS, retroactive emergency room policies and surprise billing practices contribute  
8 to medical debt endured by Georgians, conflict with goals for access to care across the state,  
9 and discriminate against patients with lower health literacy; and

10 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the practices and policies that are currently being  
11 implemented in various emergency departments and hospitals throughout the state to  
12 determine if action by the state is necessary to mitigate the problem.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 GEORGIA:

15 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on  
16 Retrospective Emergency Room Policies and Surprise Billing Practices.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members, as  
18 follows:

19 (A) Three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker  
20 of the House of Representatives, who shall designate one of such members as  
21 cochairperson; and

22 (B) Three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, who  
23 shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

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

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

31 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The members of the committee shall receive the  
32 allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia  
33 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any  
34 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.  
35 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
36 appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate.

37 (6) **Report.**

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

42 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
43 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to  
44 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

45 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
46 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
47 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed  
48 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

49 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk  
50 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes  
51 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

52 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.