

Senate Resolution 991

By: Senators Harrell of the 40th, Henson of the 41st and Hufstetler of the 52nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate PeachCare Public Option Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, access to quality, affordable health care is a cornerstone of a healthy state and
3 a healthy economy; and
- 4 WHEREAS, increases in health insurance premiums and deductibles have outpaced worker
5 earnings and inflation in the United States in recent years; and
- 6 WHEREAS, consumers with employer sponsored health coverage report having problems
7 paying medical bills or difficulties affording high premiums, deductibles, or copayments; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in 2020, only a small number of Georgia counties had more than two
9 commercial insurers participating in the Affordable Care Act Marketplace; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Georgia's PeachCare for Kids Program, which extends Medicaid managed care
11 to low income children, consistently gets high marks for customer satisfaction; and
- 12 WHEREAS, consumers would benefit from greater competition in the individual insurance
13 marketplace.
- 14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:
- 15 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate PeachCare Public
16 Option Study Committee.
- 17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of three members of the
18 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
19 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.
- 20 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
21 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
22 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

27 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The members of the committee shall receive the
28 allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
29 Annotated; provided, however, that allowances shall not be received by any member of
30 the committee for any committee meeting conducted by virtual means. The allowances
31 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for
32 more than three days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out
33 the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate.

34 (6) **Report.**

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

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

42 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
43 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
44 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
45 the Secretary of the Senate.

46 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
47 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

48 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.