

## House Resolution 128

By: Representatives Mobley of the 69<sup>th</sup> and Turnquest of the 73<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Certified Professional Midwifery; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, pregnancy and childbirth are normal life events; and

4 WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia want access to midwives who provide maternity care  
5 and attend births in homes and freestanding birth centers; and

6 WHEREAS, there are no longer any "granny midwives" authorized to attend women in  
7 childbirth in this state; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Board of Nursing authorizes certified nurse midwives (CNM's) to  
9 attend women in childbirth, but those so certified must be registered professional nurses who  
10 have graduated from an ACNM accredited program; and

11 WHEREAS, at this time no CNM's or medical doctors in this state regularly attend births  
12 outside the hospital setting except in the one freestanding birth center in the state; and

13 WHEREAS, there exists a shortage of maternity care in certain areas of the state and a  
14 shortage of consumer choices for maternity care throughout the state; and

15 WHEREAS, 33 other states currently allow direct-entry midwives to practice in out-of-  
16 hospital settings; and

17 WHEREAS, the large majority of home-based births that occur in the United States are  
18 attended by direct-entry midwives; and

1 WHEREAS, the Certified Professional Midwife, a national certification recognized in a  
2 number of states, is now available to midwives who meet the standardized requirements for  
3 knowledge, skills, and experience for entry level practice; and

4 WHEREAS, out-of-hospital births can be achieved with comparable safety and at  
5 significantly lower costs than hospital births; and

6 WHEREAS, a study needs to be conducted to determine whether certified professional  
7 midwives could safely provide such obstetrical care.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
9 there is created the House Study Committee on Certified Professional Midwifery to be  
10 composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker  
11 of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee  
12 as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
14 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
15 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
16 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
17 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
18 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
19 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative  
20 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are  
21 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
22 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee  
23 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed  
24 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2001. The committee  
25 shall stand abolished on December 1, 2001.