

House Resolution 1083

By: Representatives Harrell of the 62nd, Orrock of the 56th, Drenner of the 66th, Benfield of the 67th, Manning of the 32nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Prescription Drug Addiction; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, approximately 8 million people have been afflicted or affected by prescription
4 drug addiction, misuse, or abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, 125,000 die each year from the abuse of prescribed medicines and
6 over-the-counter medicines; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, the extent of the abuse of
8 prescription drugs is second only to cocaine usage; and

9 WHEREAS, over 3 billion retail prescriptions were dispensed in 1999, an average of 4
10 million prescriptions written per day; and

11 WHEREAS, since 1990, sales of nonprescription medicines have increased by more than 60
12 percent; and

13 WHEREAS, as reported by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, prescription drug
14 abuse is prevalent among older adults and is a threat to the well-being of our youth; and

15 WHEREAS, the abuse and misuse of prescription drugs in the workplace are common and
16 often overlooked as a source of workplace problems; and

17 WHEREAS, until recently, law enforcement agencies, health care professionals, public
18 officials, and the general public have placed little emphasis on this "closet disease"; and

19 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the issues and facts relating to prescription drug
20 addiction in the State of Georgia is needed to protect the health of the state's citizens.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 there is created the House Study Committee on Prescription Drug Addiction to be composed
3 of three members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who shall
4 designate one member as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
5 committee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
7 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
8 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
9 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
10 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
11 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
12 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
13 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
14 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
15 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
16 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
17 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2002. The
18 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2002.