

House Resolution 1328 (AM)

By: Representatives Sims of the 167th, Porter of the 143rd, Walker of the 141st, Skipper of the 137th, Lane of the 146th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Collegiate Athletic Association Disciplinary Study Committee; creating
2 the House Study Committee on Access to Prescription Medication; and for other purposes.

3 **PART I**

4 WHEREAS, collegiate athletic associations can and sometimes do impose penalties for
5 alleged misconduct on student athletes, universities and colleges, and employees of such
6 institutions in this state; and

7 WHEREAS, such penalties may have serious and long-lasting consequences for the student,
8 institution, or employee; and

9 WHEREAS, the accused in such circumstances should be afforded certain procedural
10 safeguards to protect against injustice.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
12 there is created the House Collegiate Athletic Association Disciplinary Study Committee to
13 be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the
15 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
16 committee.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
18 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
19 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
20 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
21 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
22 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
23 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative

1 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
2 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
3 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
4 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
5 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2002. The committee
6 shall stand abolished on December 1, 2002.

7 **PART II**

8 WHEREAS, quality health care is especially important to the Medicaid population which
9 includes the low-income, the frail elderly, and racial and ethnic minorities; and

10 WHEREAS, prior authorization and coverage limitations may often impose delays in the
11 receipt of medically necessary care and may confuse or burden patients and their families
12 about the necessity of prescribed care; and

13 WHEREAS, programs such as disease state management can improve patient outcomes and
14 quality of life which potentially reduce overall costs by ensuring patients have the right
15 medicines, rather than focusing only on drug costs; and

16 WHEREAS, the costs of prescription drugs in Georgia continue to increase exponentially
17 and a significant percentage of costs are absorbed by the federal government through
18 matching dollars and mandated manufacturer rebates; and

19 WHEREAS, prescription drugs often are a substitute for expensive, outmoded, or invasive
20 medical treatments, such as hospitalization and surgery, and they offer a cost-effective means
21 of allowing patients to meet medical needs while preserving or recovering active, productive
22 roles in their communities and families; and

23 WHEREAS, any pharmacy benefit program should make available any and all criteria
24 utilized to make coverage decisions and ensure due process rights for coverage denials
25 including prompt peer review.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 there is created the House Study Committee on Access to Prescription Medication to be
28 composed of five members of the House to be appointed by the Speaker of the House who
29 shall designate a member as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all

1 meetings of the committee and shall invite representatives from the Department of
2 Community Health, the Medical Association of Georgia, the Georgia State Medical
3 Association, the Georgia Hospital Association, the Georgia Pharmacy Association, the
4 Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, and other related health care
5 professional associations, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and other interested parties to
6 attend and give testimony.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
8 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
9 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
10 of this resolution including, without limitation, a study of the issues contributing to the access
11 to prescription medications, the efficacy and safety of step therapy and prior authorization,
12 ensuring continuity of care, the increasing cost of prescription drugs, the availability of
13 criteria used by pharmacy benefit programs to deny coverage, and due process rights for
14 coverage denials to ensure prompt peer review. The legislative members of the committee
15 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
16 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
17 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
18 from the funds appropriated by the House. In the event the committee makes a report of its
19 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
20 shall be made on or before December 31, 2002. The committee shall stand abolished on
21 December 31, 2002.