

Senate Resolution 934

By: Senator Thomas of the 10th

**ADOPTED SENATE**

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Automated External Defibrillators; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, heart disease is the leading cause of death in Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival drops 10 percent for every minute  
5 that passes before his or her heart is returned to normal rhythm; and

6 WHEREAS, because most cardiac arrest victims are initially in ventricular fibrillation, and  
7 the only treatment for ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation, prompt access to defibrillation  
8 to return the heart to normal rhythm is essential; and

9 WHEREAS, lifesaving technology, the automated external defibrillator, has been developed  
10 to allow trained lay rescuers to respond to cardiac arrest by using this simple device to shock  
11 the heart into normal rhythm; and

12 WHEREAS, those people who are likely to be first on the scene of a cardiac arrest situation  
13 in many communities, particularly smaller and rural communities, lack sufficient numbers  
14 of automated external defibrillators to respond to cardiac arrest in a timely manner; and

15 WHEREAS, the American Heart Association estimates that more than 50,000 deaths could  
16 be prevented each year if defibrillators were more widely available to designated responders;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, a study should be conducted to evaluate the relevant issues relating to the  
19 availability and use of automated external defibrillators in this state; to assess the need for  
20 the establishment of a state-wide registry to serve as a centralized data base tracking the sites  
21 at which automated external defibrillators are located throughout the state; and to determine  
22 the need for a state-wide reporting system to document usage of automated external  
23 defibrillators and to record the results of such usage.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
2 Study Committee on External Automated Defibrillators to be composed of three members  
3 of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall  
4 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall  
5 call all meetings of the committee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate shall appoint an advisory  
7 panel to assist the members of the committee. The advisory panel shall consist of seven  
8 members as follows: one representative from the American Heart Association; one  
9 representative from the Georgia Municipal Association; one representative from the  
10 Association County Commissioners of Georgia; one representative from the Georgia  
11 Hospital Association; one representative from the Medical Association of Georgia; one  
12 representative from the Georgia State Medical Association; and one representative from the  
13 Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
15 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
16 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
17 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
18 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
19 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the  
20 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim  
21 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days. Members of  
22 the advisory panel shall receive no compensation for their services to the committee and shall  
23 not be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as  
24 advisers to the committee. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution  
25 shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a  
26 report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,  
27 such report shall be made to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 1,  
28 2002. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2002.