

House Resolution 273

By: Representatives Unterman of the 84th and Orrock of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Tick-Borne Illnesses in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, tick-borne illnesses have become a growing national health concern, a source
4 of controversy for the medical community, and cause for concern among Georgia citizens
5 as the incidence of these diseases has increased dramatically in the last five years; and

6 WHEREAS, the diseases which are acquired from the bite of a tick include: Rocky Mountain
7 spotted fever, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, and relapsing fever; and these maladies can be
8 extremely debilitating and have been known to be fatal; and

9 WHEREAS, relatively little has been accomplished within the state of Georgia with regard
10 to prevention measures or education of the public about the existence and potential harm of
11 these diseases; and

12 WHEREAS, increased awareness, diagnostic information, and research are needed within
13 the medical community and additional methods of distributing information need to be
14 explored to protect and preserve the health of citizens in all Georgia communities.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
16 there is created the House Study Committee on Tick-Borne Illnesses in Georgia to be
17 composed of five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
18 Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The
19 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
21 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
22 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
23 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

1 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
2 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
3 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
4 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
5 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
6 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
7 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
8 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2001. The
9 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2001.