

House Resolution 275

By: Representative Childers of the 13th

A RESOLUTION

1 To direct and require that the Department of Community Health adopt certain reimbursement
2 methodologies for nursing facilities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, nursing facilities strive to provide residents with care to meet their needs; and

4 WHEREAS, a recent federal study has determined that the care provided to nursing facility
5 residents in more than half of the facilities across the nation falls below a bare minimum
6 number of hours required to care for such residents; and

7 WHEREAS, the nursing facility industry has acknowledged the critical shortage of
8 dedicated, trained care givers; and

9 WHEREAS, nursing facilities in Georgia have acknowledged difficulty in hiring and keeping
10 enough direct care staff to care for their residents; and

11 WHEREAS, providing quality care for nursing facility residents is a complex issue that has
12 many facets; and

13 WHEREAS, one of the important facets is providing adequate reimbursement to nursing
14 facilities to encourage staffing at levels and hours that adequately meet the needs of the
15 residents; and

16 WHEREAS, the vast majority of nursing facility residents pay for their care with some
17 government assistance; and

18 WHEREAS, providing adequate staff to provide quality care for such residents requires
19 reimbursement from government agencies and private providers at a level that adequately
20 pays for such care and has some relationship to the amount of care provided; and

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Community Health is responsible for the reimbursement
2 methodology for nursing facilities receiving Medicaid funds; and

3 WHEREAS, the Department of Community Health is proposing a new method for using
4 facility reimbursement; and

5 WHEREAS, in the development of such a reimbursement methodology, the Department of
6 Community Health has the flexibility to include incentives to nursing facilities to promote
7 appropriate levels of adequately trained staff to meet the needs of each resident; and

8 WHEREAS, providing financial incentives to nursing facilities to recruit, train, and retain
9 staff and to implement innovative methods of management and service delivery is a first step
10 in addressing the problem.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 GEORGIA that, in order to provide quality care for residents, the Department of Community
13 Health is directed, as part of its reimbursement methodology, to provide to nursing facilities
14 up-front incentives and, where appropriate, pass-throughs to increase the number of staff
15 above the current minimum requirements.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Community Health is required and
17 directed to provide incentives to assist such facilities to recruit, train, and retain appropriate
18 direct care staff by the use of, among other inducements, enhancements to wages and
19 benefits, and to provide grants to such facilities to institute the Wellspring model, the Eden
20 alternative, or other such innovative models of management and service delivery as the
21 department shall approve.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Community Health shall assure that
23 any funds provided through these incentives are utilized exclusively for recruitment, training,
24 and retention of direct care staff and shall measure the outcomes of these incentives including
25 direct care staff recruitment, training and retention, and resident health outcomes.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Russ Toal, the
28 Commissioner of the Department of Community Health.