

The House Health and Ecology Committee offers the following substitute to HR 275:

# A RESOLUTION

1 To urge 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 that, in order  
12 to provide quality care for residents, the Department of Community Health is urged, as part  
13 of its reimbursement methodology, to provide to nursing facilities up-front incentives and,  
14 where appropriate, pass-throughs to increase the number of staff above the current minimum  
15 requirements.

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

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

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