

## House Resolution 371

By: Representatives Henson of the 65<sup>th</sup>, Channell of the 111<sup>th</sup>, Graves of the 125<sup>th</sup>, Snow of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Birdsong of the 123<sup>rd</sup> and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Hepatitis C; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a major public health issue including 36,000 new infections in  
3 the United States affecting four million Americans and 100,000 Georgians; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a chronic liver disease with few recognizable symptoms that in  
5 many cases lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver failure; is the leading cause of liver  
6 transplantation; and accounts for between 8,000 and 10,000 deaths annually from chronic  
7 liver disease; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C accounts for an estimated \$600 million in medical expenses and  
9 work loss, excluding transplantation; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C currently accounts for 10,000 deaths annually in this country and  
11 is expected to increase to 38,000 deaths annually by the end of this decade; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the highest risk groups for Hepatitis C include hemodialysis patients, injecting  
13 drug users, health care workers, veterans, and infants born to infected women; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a major cause of disability and hospitalization; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C affects rural populations disproportionately and Georgia has 117  
16 counties which are medically underserved; and
- 17 WHEREAS, detection is possible through blood screenings and treatment is effective in 10  
18 to 40 percent of infected persons; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is concerned with preserving and protecting the health  
20 of the citizens of Georgia.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
2 there is created the House Study Committee on Hepatitis C to be composed of five members  
3 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate  
4 a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all  
5 meetings of the committee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the public  
7 health impact of Hepatitis C in the State of Georgia and the need for programs or policies to  
8 enhance education, awareness, detection, and prevention of the disease in the general  
9 population.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
11 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
12 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
13 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
14 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
15 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
16 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative  
17 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are  
18 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
19 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee  
20 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed  
21 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2001. The  
22 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2001.