

Senate Resolution 262

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Stokes of the 43rd, Thomas of the 2nd, Thomas of the 10th and Smith of the 25th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Task Force on Developing a Federally Funded Prescription Drug Benefit
2 for Low-Income Elderly Citizens; to provide for the membership, powers, duties, and
3 mission of the task force; to provide for related matters; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, low-income elderly citizens in the state, including many medicare beneficiaries,
5 do not have insurance coverage that includes a prescription drug benefit and therefore lack
6 access to life-saving drug therapies; and

7 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is committed to protecting the health and welfare of its
8 citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, there exists a federal proposal to make available federal funds in the form of
10 block grants to states to fund a prescription drug benefit for low-income medicare
11 beneficiaries.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Task Force on Developing a Federally Funded
14 Prescription Drug Benefit for Low-Income Elderly Citizens to be composed of four members
15 appointed by the President of the Senate and four members appointed by Speaker of the
16 House. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each designate a
17 member of the task force to serve as cochairpersons and call all meetings of the task force.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall undertake a study of the needs and
19 issues related to a federal prescription drug benefit for the low-income elderly population and
20 recommend any actions or legislation which the task force deems necessary or appropriate
21 to ensure that this vulnerable population has access to available drug therapies and to ensure
22 the maximum leveraging of federal funds for this purpose. The task force shall consult with
23 consumers, representatives of the Department of Community Health, health care
24 professionals, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and others in carrying out its mission. The task

1 force may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary
2 or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
3 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the task force
4 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
5 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
6 authorized. In the event the task force makes a report of its findings and recommendations,
7 with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before
8 December 31, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2001.