

## Senate Resolution 262

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

**ADOPTED SENATE**

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Developing a Federally Funded Prescription Drug  
2 Benefit 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 SENATE that there is created the Senate  
13 Study Committee on Developing a Federally Funded Prescription Drug Benefit for  
14 Low-Income Elderly Citizens to be composed of five members of the Senate appointed by  
15 the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate a member of the  
16 study committee to serve as chairperson and who shall call all meetings of the study  
17 committee.

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

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