

Senate Resolution 428

By: Senator Thomas of the 10<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Health Care Work Force Shortage Study Committee; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there currently exists a severe health care personnel shortage as evidenced by  
4 a 13 percent vacancy rate of registered nurses in Georgia, along with a shortage of almost  
5 1,200 allied health personnel; a decline in enrollment in nursing programs of 20.9 percent  
6 from 1995 to 1998; hospital budgets being severely impacted by overtime and temporary  
7 agency staff; an increase in chronic illnesses in Georgia's aging population contributing to  
8 expanded use of health care services; an increase in the average age of registered nurses to  
9 approximately 45 years old; a greater need for experienced allied health personnel and nurses  
10 in specialty areas to meet the more acute care needs of hospital patients; an expansion of the  
11 nursing role into other settings such as home health, managed care, and school nursing;  
12 active marketing for and recruitment of United States nurses by Canadian hospitals; an  
13 increase in the average age of health care teaching faculty; and fewer students pursuing a  
14 career in teaching health professional courses.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
16 Health Care Work Force Shortage Study Committee which shall be composed of 12  
17 members to be appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

- 18 (1) Three Senators;
- 19 (2) One representative from the Georgia Hospital Association;
- 20 (3) One representative from the Georgia Nursing Home Association;
- 21 (4) One representative from the Georgia Nurses Association;
- 22 (5) One representative from the Allied Health Association;
- 23 (6) One representative from the Managed Care Association;
- 24 (7) One representative from the Medical Association of Georgia;
- 25 (8) One representative from the Georgia Public Health Association;
- 26 (9) One representative from the Georgia State Medical Association; and
- 27 (10) One representative from the Pharmaceutical Association of Georgia.

1 The President of the Senate shall appoint a Senator from the three Senate members on the  
2 committee to serve as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
4 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
5 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
6 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
7 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
8 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
9 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative  
10 committees but shall receive the same for not more than ten days unless additional days are  
11 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
12 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. No allowance shall be paid to nonlegislative  
13 members of the committee. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and  
14 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be  
15 made on or before December 31, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on December  
16 31, 2001.