

House Resolution 648

By: Representatives Mueller of the 152nd and Murphy of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Organization of the Public Delivery System for
2 Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services are among the
4 most significant health and social services provided by the Department of Human Resources;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly created within the Department of Human Resources the
7 Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse to supervise the
8 delivery of public mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services; and

9 WHEREAS, House Bill 100 (Act No. 552, Ga. L. 1993, p. 1445) restructured the public
10 delivery system supervised by the Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and
11 Substance Abuse of the Department of Human Resources by creating regional boards to
12 facilitate coordinated planning and service delivery throughout the state and community
13 service boards to succeed county boards of health as providers of mental health, mental
14 retardation, and substance abuse services not provided by other public or private providers
15 under contract with the regional boards; and

16 WHEREAS, a thorough legislative study is needed to determine if the delivery system
17 created pursuant to House Bill 100 provides the state with the most effective and efficient
18 organizational structure for the delivery of public mental health, mental retardation, and
19 substance abuse services.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 there is created the House Study Committee on the Organization of the Public Delivery
22 System for Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services to be
23 composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker

1 of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee
2 as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a comprehensive study
4 of the needs of the state with respect to the organization of the public delivery system for
5 mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services. Without limiting the
6 generality of the foregoing such study, it should specifically address the effectiveness of
7 support and the adequacy of assistance provided by the Division of Mental Health, Mental
8 Retardation, and Substance Abuse of the Department of Human Resources to community
9 service boards, county boards of health that provide mental health, mental retardation, and
10 substance abuse services, and other public and private providers; the need for regional boards
11 as a level of governance between the Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and
12 Substance Abuse and the community service boards and the governing boards of other
13 public and private providers; the need for regional planning units within the Division of
14 Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse; the role of legislative advocacy
15 in state councils established pursuant to federal disability laws; and the capability of the
16 current delivery system to provide a comprehensive range of quality services to consumers
17 and their families in all geographic areas of the state. The study committee shall study the
18 conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend
19 any actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
21 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
22 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
23 of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized
24 for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not
25 more than ten days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out
26 the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of
27 Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
28 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
29 made on or before December 1, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on December
30 1, 2001.