

House Resolution 227

By: Representative Mobley of the 58th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Certified Professional Midwifery; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, pregnancy and childbirth are normal life events; and

4 WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia want access to midwives who provide maternity care
5 and attend births in homes and freestanding birth centers; and

6 WHEREAS, there are no longer any "granny midwives" authorized to attend women in
7 childbirth in this state; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Board of Nursing authorizes certified nurse midwives (CNM's) to
9 attend women in childbirth, but those so certified must be registered professional nurses who
10 have graduated from an ACNM accredited program; and

11 WHEREAS, at this time no CNM's or medical doctors in this state regularly attend births
12 outside the hospital setting except in the one freestanding birth center in the state; and

13 WHEREAS, there exists a shortage of maternity care in certain areas of the state and a
14 shortage of consumer choices for maternity care throughout the state; and

15 WHEREAS, 33 other states currently allow direct-entry midwives to practice in
16 out-of-hospital settings; and

17 WHEREAS, the large majority of home-based births that occur in the United States are
18 attended by direct-entry midwives; and

1 WHEREAS, the Certified Professional Midwife, a national certification recognized in a
2 number of states, is now available to midwives who meet the standardized requirements for
3 knowledge, skills, and experience for entry level practice; and

4 WHEREAS, out-of-hospital births can be achieved with comparable safety and at
5 significantly lower costs than hospital births; and

6 WHEREAS, a study needs to be conducted to determine whether certified professional
7 midwives could safely provide such obstetrical care.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that there is
9 created the Joint Study Committee on Certified Professional Midwifery to be composed of
10 five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
11 of Representatives and five members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee
12 on Assignments. The Speaker shall designate a member of House and the Senate Committee
13 on Assignments shall designate a member of the Senate who shall serve as chairpersons of
14 the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
16 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
17 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
18 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
19 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
20 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
21 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
22 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
23 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
24 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate. In the event the
25 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
26 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2003. The
27 committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2003.