

House Resolution 1474

By: Representatives Skipper of the 116th, Porter of the 119th, Dodson of the 84th, Post 1, Smyre of the 111th, and Childers of the 13th, Post 1

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Trauma Network Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia is experiencing a critical public health crisis in delivering trauma care;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, injury is the leading cause of death of Georgians aged one to 45; and
- 5 WHEREAS, trauma injury results in 4,500 deaths and 75,000 hospitalizations, 1 million
- 6 emergency room visits, and over 2 million physician visits annually in Georgia; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Georgians are much more likely to die from trauma than anywhere else in the
- 8 United States and if Georgia deaths were reduced to the national average, 624 lives would
- 9 be saved each year; and
- 10 WHEREAS, trauma disproportionately affects the young and the uninsured; and
- 11 WHEREAS, fewer physicians are taking call in hospital emergency rooms due to the
- 12 increase of medical malpractice risks; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the lack of funding for trauma care is a major obstacle in getting more hospitals
- 14 to participate as designated trauma centers; and
- 15 WHEREAS, three years ago there were 19 designated trauma centers and today there are 14;
- 16 and
- 17 WHEREAS, Georgia trauma hospitals incurred approximately \$100 million in
- 18 uncompensated care costs in 2002 in providing trauma care; and

1 WHEREAS, state policy should be to encourage more hospitals to participate in a trauma
2 care system; and

3 WHEREAS, Georgia does not have a formalized trauma network.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 there is created the House Trauma Network Study Committee to be composed of seven
6 members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the members of the
7 committee and shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The chairperson shall
8 call all meetings of the committee.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a comprehensive study
10 of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and
11 recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
12 The committee shall hear testimony and receive information from persons knowledgeable
13 in trauma care and in the development of a trauma network in Georgia. The committee may
14 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
15 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
16 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
17 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the O.C.G.A. All funds
18 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
19 to the House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution
20 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless
21 additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
22 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
23 made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished on
24 December 31, 2004.