

Senate Resolution 967

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th, Hall of the 22nd, Kemp of the 46th and Thomas of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Mandatory Death Reporting in Compensated Care;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, currently in Georgia, deaths of elderly, incapacitated, or other infirm individuals
4 who die within compensated care facilities, including home health agencies, private home
5 care providers, community living arrangements, and long-term care facilities, or after
6 discharge from such facilities, are not required to be reported to a coroner or medical
7 examiner and, as a consequence, deaths in which there are suspicions of neglect or abuse are
8 frequently not reported; and

9 WHEREAS, such deaths may necessitate further investigation long after the body has been
10 buried or cremated, making accurate investigations essentially impossible; and

11 WHEREAS, if these deaths were required to be reported, conditions of abuse and neglect
12 may be uncovered, investigated, and subsequently prosecuted or mitigated; and

13 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of this state to monitor the quality of care
14 provided to our elderly, incapacitated, and infirm citizens and to ensure that deaths of people
15 who are particularly susceptible to abuse and neglect are reported.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
17 Study Committee on Mandatory Death Reporting in Compensated Care to be composed of
18 five members. The Senate Committee on Assignments shall appoint members of the Senate
19 as members of the committee and shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The
20 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
22 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
23 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may

1 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
2 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
3 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
4 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
5 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
6 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
7 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its
8 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
9 shall be made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished on
10 December 31, 2004.