

The House Committee on Human Relations and Aging offers the following substitute to HR 1055:

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other health care providers to refer patients for
2 lymphedema treatment to a nationally certified lymphedema therapist or oncologist; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization cites lymphedema as the second leading cause
5 of disability in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, lymphedema is the swelling in the body resulting from an accumulation of fluid
7 in the tissue caused through a genetic condition or by a disruption in the lymphatic system's
8 ability to clean and filter lymph fluid in the body; and

9 WHEREAS, lymphedema can occur at any time in a person's life after an initial injury to the
10 lymphatic system and if it is not treated properly, it can progress and cause a high risk of
11 infection, can result in expensive hospitalizations and antibiotic treatments, and can cause
12 disabling or even fatal conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, lymphedema is a chronic condition requiring lifelong management, and proper
14 treatment can increase the patient's quality of life; and

15 WHEREAS, national certification for lymphedema therapists is available through the
16 Lymphology Association of North America; and

17 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia does not currently require that lymphedema treatment be
18 performed by certified lymphedema therapists and anecdotal evidence suggests that many
19 hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other health care providers in this state do not require that
20 lymphedema treatment be performed by certified lymphedema therapists.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 all hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other health care providers in this state are strongly

- 1 urged to refer patients for lymphedema treatment to a nationally certified lymphedema
- 2 therapist or oncologist.