

Senate Resolution 853

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Unterman of the 45th, Tate of the 38th, Thomas of the 54th and Goggans of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Hospital Health Care Standards Commission; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between
3 44,000 to 98,000 Americans die each year from adverse patient events, including hospital
4 acquired infections; and

5 WHEREAS, an additional 1.9 million patients per year get an infection that does not result
6 in death, but results in the patient's spending from one to 30 extra days in the hospital; and
7 overall, hospital acquired infections add nearly \$5 billion per year to our nation's health care
8 costs; and

9 WHEREAS, over the past two decades, the hospitalized patient population has become more
10 severely ill and more immuno-compromised and thus at greater risk for hospital acquired
11 infections; and

12 WHEREAS, the responsibilities of infection control departments in hospitals have markedly
13 expanded to include prevention of exposure to bloodborne pathogens and prevention of
14 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or multidrug-resistant bacterial transmission; and

15 WHEREAS, there exists a need to conduct infection surveillance systems, determine baseline
16 infection rates for comparison, improve device and antimicrobial drug use, and educate
17 hospital staff about prevention of infectious diseases; and

18 WHEREAS, because of their expertise in epidemiologic methods, infection control personnel
19 can assist in establishing and implementing infection control, quality assurance, and medical
20 error reduction programs in hospital settings; and

1 WHEREAS, the state must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the rate of hospital
2 acquired infections of patients in hospitals in this state is minimized.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 GEORGIA that there is created the Hospital Health Care Standards Commission for
5 Prevention of Hospital Acquired Infections to be composed of 14 members as follows: three
6 members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives; three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on
8 Assignments; and the following eight members to be appointed by the Governor: one
9 hospital administrator representing an urban area, one hospital administrator representing a
10 rural area, one registered nurse, one representative of a physician association, one
11 representative from the Georgia Hospital Association, one representative from the Georgia
12 Alliance for Community Hospitals, one physician specializing in infectious diseases and one
13 researcher specializing in infectious diseases. The Georgia Hospital Association and the
14 Medical Association of Georgia may make recommendations to the Governor with regard
15 to the Governor's appointees. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate
16 Committee on Assignments shall each designate a cochairperson from among their respective
17 appointees. The commission shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of cleanliness
19 safety standards in hospitals in this state and rates and causes of hospital acquired infections.
20 The commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
21 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
22 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative
23 members of the commission shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
24 of interim legislative committees from the funds appropriated to the House of
25 Representatives and the Senate but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
26 additional days are authorized. Citizen members shall receive a daily expense allowance in
27 the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of
28 Georgia Annotated as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
29 employees. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
30 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the event the
31 commission makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
32 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006. The
33 commission shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.