

House Resolution 1692

By: Representatives Day of the 163rd, Harbin of the 118th, Burkhalter of the 50th, Keen of the 179th, Sheldon of the 105th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the state, county, and municipal governments to create a comprehensive emergency
2 preparedness and response educational program; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it is essential to public health and safety that this state be prepared in the event
4 of a large-scale public safety emergency caused by either bioterrorism, natural disaster, or
5 the rapid transmission of a life-threatening disease; and

6 WHEREAS, a natural disaster, pandemic, or epidemic has the potential of causing extensive
7 casualties, devastating health consequences for the citizens of this state, and the disruption
8 of critical community services due to the incapacitation of essential human infrastructure
9 and, to attempt to avoid such tragic consequences, local leaders should be prepared and
10 trained to efficiently and immediately respond to such emergencies; and

11 WHEREAS, there is a need, as an integral part of the state's preparedness in the event of a
12 large-scale public safety emergency, for state and local governments to develop consistent
13 and meaningful contingency plans and for county and municipal governments to have
14 pre-prepared procedures for the implementation of an effective and immediate response to
15 such a disaster; and

16 WHEREAS, in the event of a large-scale public safety emergency or disaster, state and local
17 officials will be called upon to implement a response plan and will be expected to efficiently
18 and with assurance lead the state and its citizens.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the state, county, and municipal governments are urged to take all steps necessary to ensure
21 that county and municipal government leaders are provided meaningful courses of
22 instruction, training, and guidance so that our county and municipal government leaders are
23 prepared to respond to a large-scale public safety emergency.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Georgia's Office of Homeland Security, the Georgia
2 Emergency Management Agency, the Georgia Municipal Association, and the Association
3 County Commissioners of Georgia are urged to work cooperatively together to help to
4 develop emergency preparedness courses for training local government leaders.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the courses and instruction should consider the
6 following concerns and issues as these relate to pandemic preparedness and response:

7 (1) The need for coordinated response plans on the regional, state-wide, and national
8 levels;

9 (2) Interagency cooperation and agreements between agencies and private entities on the
10 local, regional, state, and national levels, including agreements with elected representatives,
11 law enforcement, first responders, and the media;

12 (3) Agreements with health care insurers, Medicaid or other federal medical programs, and
13 health care product, equipment, and services providers for cooperation with public health
14 recommendations during an epidemic;

15 (4) The coordination, recruitment, and training of medical and nonmedical emergency
16 volunteers;

17 (5) The identification of available facilities for the provision of medical care,
18 decontamination, quarantine, training, and morgue services;

19 (6) The need to stockpile medications or medical equipment;

20 (7) The availability of communication and the need for developing communication
21 procedures;

22 (8) The development of uniform and humane quarantine procedures; and

23 (9) Methods for filling critical infrastructure services such as police, fire, and EMT
24 services as well as sanitation, water, and electrical services.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that following the completion of such courses of instruction
26 local government leaders are further urged to develop contingency plans and procedures for
27 preparedness to public health emergencies and disasters.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges federal, state, and local governments to
29 continue to work to have closer involvement and open communication in the development
30 of public health emergency plans for the promotion of public safety for all Georgians and to
31 set shared goals of being effective leaders of this state and protecting, promoting, and
32 educating citizens on the absolute importance of emergency preparedness for conceivable
33 disasters likely to occur.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
2 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Governor, the director
3 of Georgia's Office of Homeland Security; the director of the Georgia Emergency
4 Management Agency, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, and the Georgia
5 Municipal Association.