

Senate Resolution 1236

By: Senators Meyer von Bremen of the 12th, Hooks of the 14th, Goggans of the 7th and Carter of the 13th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the State Health Care Benefit Plan; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the rising cost of health care has had a negative impact on the State of Georgia,
4 its dedicated public employees, and health care personnel; and

5 WHEREAS, the rising cost of health care and its negative impact are not unique to Georgia;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, other states and municipalities have dealt with this crisis in varied and
8 innovative ways; and

9 WHEREAS, the dedicated public employees covered under the State Health Benefit Plan and
10 the physicians who provide the health care have had limited input in policy-making activities
11 including, but not limited to, plan administration, plan design, plan changes, qualitative
12 reviews of plan service, scope of services, and networks; and

13 WHEREAS, the expertise and input of all parties impacted by decisions made concerning
14 the State Health Benefit Plan is vital to the success of the health plan and accomplishment
15 of its mission to provide quality affordable health insurance; and

16 WHEREAS, an opportunity should be provided for public hearings in different parts of the
17 state and consideration of options for improving the State Health Benefit Plan to ensure
18 future improvement of the State Health Benefit Plan.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
20 Study Committee on the State Health Care Benefit Plan to be composed of nine members,
21 as follows: five members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on
22 Assignments, the president of the Georgia Association of Educators or his or her designee,

1 the Georgia president of the Service Employees International Union or his or her designee,
2 the president of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators or his or her designee, and
3 the president of the Medical Association of Georgia or his or her designee. If an elected or
4 appointed public officer who is a member of the committee leaves office, a vacancy shall be
5 created in such position on the committee. Such a vacancy and any other vacancy shall be
6 filled in the same manner as the initial designation or appointment. The members of the
7 committee shall elect a chairperson at its first meeting. The committee's first meeting shall
8 be at the call of the President of the Senate and thereafter at the call of the chairperson.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
10 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
11 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
12 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
13 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
14 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. No less than two meetings of the
15 committee shall be held outside of the metropolitan area of Atlanta. The legislative members
16 of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the
17 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, but shall receive the same for not more than five days
18 unless additional days are authorized. The members of the committee who are not legislative
19 members and who are not public employees shall receive no compensation for their services
20 on the committee. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall
21 come from the funds appropriated to or otherwise available to the Senate. The committee
22 shall publish a written report on its progress on or before December 31, 2006, for the 2007
23 session of the General Assembly and shall include any recommendations of any actions or
24 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. This committee shall stand
25 abolished on July 1, 2007.