

House Resolution 1055 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Buckner of the 130th, Walker of the 107th, and Mosley of the 178th

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other health care providers to refer patients for
2 lymphedema treatment to a nationally certified lymphedema therapist or oncologist and
3 directing the medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and other health
4 related schools in this state to include training on lymphedema prevention and treatment in
5 the required curriculum; and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, increased awareness and knowledge of lymphedema by trained medical
2 personnel can help minimize the effects of the condition and improve the quality of life of
3 the patients.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 all hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other health care providers in this state are directed to
6 refer patients for lymphedema treatment to a nationally certified lymphedema therapist or
7 oncologist and all medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and other health
8 related schools in this state are directed to include training on lymphedema prevention and
9 treatment in the required curriculum.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
11 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the medical, nursing,
12 occupational therapy, physical therapy, and other health related schools in this state.