

House Resolution 1560 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representative Cox of the 102<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Pandemic Preparedness and Response Study Committee and the House  
2 Study Committee on State Law Enforcement Salaries and Benefits; and for other purposes.

### 3 **SECTION 1.**

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

7 WHEREAS, a pandemic or epidemic has the potential of causing both devastating health  
8 consequences for the citizens of this state and the disruption of critical community services  
9 due to the incapacitation of essential human infrastructure and, to attempt to avoid such  
10 tragic consequences, there should be an evaluation of the state's preparedness and a  
11 consideration of the need for state and local contingency plans; and

12 WHEREAS, in the event of a public health emergency or disaster, state and local officials  
13 will be called upon to implement a response plan.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
15 there is created the House Pandemic Preparedness and Response Study Committee to be  
16 composed of five members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the  
17 members of the committee and shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The  
18 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
20 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
21 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall review and consider the following  
23 concerns and issues as these relate to pandemic preparedness and response:

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- 1 (1) The need for coordinated response plans on the regional, state-wide and national levels;
- 2 (2) Interagency cooperation and agreements between agencies and private entities on the
- 3 local, regional, state, and national levels, including agreements with elected representatives,
- 4 law enforcement, first responders, and the media;
- 5 (3) Agreements with health care insurers, Medicaid or other federal medical programs, and
- 6 health care product, equipment, and services providers for cooperation with public health
- 7 recommendations during an epidemic;
- 8 (4) The coordination, recruitment and training of medical and nonmedical volunteers;
- 9 (5) The identification of available facilities for the provision of medical care,
- 10 decontamination, quarantine, training, and morgue services;
- 11 (6) The need to stockpile medications or medical equipment;
- 12 (7) The availability of communication and the need for developing communication
- 13 procedures;
- 14 (8) The development of uniform and humane quarantine procedures; and
- 15 (9) Methods for filling critical infrastructure services such as police, fire, and EMT
- 16 services as well as sanitation, water, and electrical services.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such  
18 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully  
19 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes  
20 of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized  
21 for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not  
22 more than three days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out  
23 the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of  
24 Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and  
25 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be  
26 made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand abolished on December  
27 31, 2006.

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is served daily by the hundreds of state law enforcement  
30 officers who have dedicated themselves to the protection of the lives and property of our  
31 citizens; and

32 WHEREAS, it is largely upon the courage and commitment of these brave men and women  
33 that our fundamental liberties and well-being are built and secured; and

1 WHEREAS, in rendering essential public services professionally and selflessly, this state's  
2 law enforcement officers help to assure an orderly society and enhances the citizenry's sense  
3 of security; and

4 WHEREAS, in placing the well-being of society above their personal concerns and, in some  
5 instances, risking their lives for the sake of others, the state's law enforcement officers  
6 exemplify the highest nobility and greatest commitment to humanitarian ideals; and

7 WHEREAS, it is essential that the salaries and benefits paid to state law enforcement officers  
8 state wide is at a level necessary to continue to attract and retain the best candidates and to  
9 ensure that a career as a state law enforcement officer remains an attractive employment  
10 opportunity in this state.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
12 there is created the House Study Committee on State Law Enforcement Salaries and Benefits  
13 to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the  
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the  
15 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the  
16 committee.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
18 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action  
19 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall  
20 focus its attention on the salary and benefits of state law enforcement officers who have as  
21 a part of their routine duties and responsibilities the exercise of the power of arrest, such as  
22 agents with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and troopers with the Georgia State Patrol  
23 and also including without limitation any and all certified peace officers employed with any  
24 state law enforcement unit as defined by paragraphs (7) and (8) of Code Section 35-8-2. The  
25 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem  
26 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its  
27 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the  
28 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official  
29 Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be  
30 received by any member of the committee for more than three days unless additional days  
31 are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
32 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The committee shall make a  
33 report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,

1 on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31,  
2 2006.