

House Resolution 350

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118th, Butler of the 18th, Ehrhart of the 36th, Stephens of the 164th, Parrish of the 156th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the State Health System; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia has a rich personal and public health heritage, the latter dating to the
3 founding years of the Georgia colony; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia wishes to continue that heritage by strengthening the state's health
5 infrastructure from health professional education through quality personal and public health
6 services available to all citizens; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the Georgia health system must respond to new and serious national health
8 emergencies, a growing population, the threat of infectious pandemics and new infectious
9 diseases, environmental hazards, increasing numbers of uninsured persons, decreased
10 funding from all sources, and dangerously significant variations in core public health
11 protection and access to services between counties and regions; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the delivery of behavioral health and developmental services to those
13 individuals with serious disabling conditions is an essential component of any state health
14 system; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the mission of advancing and protecting the health of the public can most
16 efficiently and effectively be addressed through a collaborative process involving
17 representatives of state, county, and community health agencies; private health professionals,
18 hospitals, and health facilities; emergency management and homeland security; the Georgia
19 Municipal Association; the Association County Commissioners of Georgia; and foundations
20 and other groups focused on improving health; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Georgia's health system is fragmented in that certain health functions, including
22 public health and mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases, are
23 assigned to the Department of Human Resources and the administration of the Medicaid

1 program and certain other health functions are assigned to the Department of Community
2 Health.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on the State Health System to be
5 composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
6 of the House of Representatives and five members of the Senate to be appointed by the
7 Lieutenant Governor. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a
8 member of the House and the Lieutenant Governor shall designate a member of the Senate
9 who shall serve as cochairpersons of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of
10 the cochairpersons.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
12 needs, issues, and problems of the state health system and its infrastructure and recommend
13 any actions or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee
14 shall hear from experts and key leaders from various health areas including, but not limited
15 to, public health and mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases, and
16 recommend any actions or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
17 The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
18 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
19 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the
20 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
21 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
22 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
23 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the
24 Senate. Additional funding may be sought from foundations desiring to support the work of
25 the committee. Foundations and other organizations may assist the committee in ways
26 approved by the committee including, but not limited to, sponsoring public hearings on
27 certain health issues and providing white papers. In the event that the committee makes a
28 report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,
29 such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2007. The committee shall stand
30 abolished on December 31, 2007.