

## House Resolution 412

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, Cooper of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Sims of the 119<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 161<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Layperson Training in Automated External  
2 Defibrillators; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, heart disease is a leading cause of death in Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival drops 10 percent for every minute  
5 that passes before his or her heart is returned to normal rhythm; and

6 WHEREAS, because most cardiac arrest victims are initially in ventricular fibrillation, and  
7 the only treatment for ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation, prompt access to defibrillation  
8 to return the heart to normal rhythm is essential; and

9 WHEREAS, lifesaving technology, the automated external defibrillator, has been developed  
10 to allow trained lay rescuers to respond to cardiac arrest by using this simple device to shock  
11 the heart into normal rhythm; and

12 WHEREAS, those people who are likely to be first on the scene of a cardiac arrest situation  
13 in many communities, particularly smaller and rural communities, lack sufficient numbers  
14 of automated external defibrillators to respond to cardiac arrest in a timely manner; and

15 WHEREAS, the American Heart Association estimates that many deaths could be prevented  
16 each year if defibrillators were more widely available; and

17 WHEREAS, increasingly more government entities and private businesses are procuring and  
18 making available automated external defibrillators for use by laypersons when an emergency  
19 occurs, and because of the prevalence of these defibrillators, it has been encouraged that all  
20 able persons obtain training on their use; and

1 WHEREAS, a study should be conducted to identify ways to encourage laypersons to receive  
2 training and certification in the use of automated external defibrillators in this state,  
3 including, but not limited to, possible mandatory courses or portions of courses in other  
4 classes, such as health, in the use of automated external defibrillators in public high schools,  
5 inclusion of training in defibrillators in required driver's education courses, reduction in rates  
6 in automobile insurance, reduction of fees in obtaining a driver's license, and other possible  
7 ideas.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that there is  
9 created the Joint Study Committee on Layperson Training in External Automated  
10 Defibrillators to be composed of three members of the House of Representatives to be  
11 appointed by the Speaker and three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant  
12 Governor. The Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor shall each designate a member of the  
13 committee as cochairpersons of the committee. The cochairpersons shall call all meetings  
14 of the committee.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
16 appoint an advisory panel to assist the members of the committee. The advisory panel shall  
17 consist of seven members as follows: one representative from the Medical Association of  
18 Georgia, one representative from the Georgia Hospital Association, one person representing  
19 emergency medical technicians; and one representative each from the Department of  
20 Education, Department of Human Resources, Department of Community Health, and  
21 Department of Driver Services.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
23 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
24 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
25 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
26 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
27 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the  
28 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim  
29 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days. Members of  
30 the advisory panel shall receive no compensation for their services to the committee and shall  
31 not be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as  
32 advisers to the committee. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution  
33 shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. In  
34 the event that the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations for

1 proposed legislation, such report shall be made no later than December 31, 2007. The  
2 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2007.