

Senate Resolution 619

By: Senators Murphy of the 27th and Hudgens of the 47th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Prescription Drugs; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, prescription drug prices are one of the critical health care issues facing many
3 citizens throughout Georgia and our nation today; and
- 4 WHEREAS, for many who live on very limited or fixed retirement incomes, the rising costs
5 of their prescription drugs or prescription drugs for their children are a constant source of
6 anxiety that often exacerbates existing health problems; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the manner and process by which prescriptions are provided by physicians or
8 other practitioners and filled by pharmacists may unnecessarily contribute to the high costs
9 and anxiety associated with prescription drugs and the lack of available affordable medical
10 insurance coverage; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the citizens of this state are expecting the General Assembly to take meaningful
12 and informed action with regard to medical insurance and prescription drug costs; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the current law found in Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 26 relating to
14 prescription drugs does not adequately address the issue of whether the practice of "prior
15 approval" of physicians for certain prescription medications is a cost-effective, necessary,
16 or equitable practice or whether it is in the best interest of the health and welfare of Georgia
17 citizens for such practice to be permitted to continue; and
- 18 WHEREAS, many treating physicians are opposed to the imposition of "prior approval"
19 requirements by insurance companies as these practices are costly and unnecessarily time
20 consuming for doctors and medical staff, as well as patients;

1 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is committed to protecting the health and welfare of its
2 citizens but there continues to be a genuine need for leadership in investigating ways to ease
3 the burden of the cost of medical prescriptions for our citizens.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
5 Study Committee on Prescription Drugs to be composed of five members of the Senate to
6 be appointed by the President of the Senate, who shall designate one member as the
7 chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
9 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
10 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
11 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
12 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
13 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
14 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
15 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
16 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
17 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its
18 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
19 shall be made on or before December 31, 2007. The committee shall stand abolished on
20 January 31, 2008.