

House Resolution 350 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)(AM)

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 House 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 there is created the House Study Committee on the State Health System to be composed of
5 six members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
6 of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member
7 of the House who shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at
8 the call of the chairperson.

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