

Senate Resolution 1285

By: Senators Murphy of the 27th, Hudgens of the 47th and Hawkins of the 49th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Prior Approval and Prescription Drugs Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, prescription drug prices are one of the critical health care issues facing many
4 citizens throughout Georgia and our nation today; and

5 WHEREAS, for many who live on very limited or fixed retirement incomes, the rising costs
6 of their prescription drugs or prescription drugs for their children are a constant source of
7 anxiety that often exacerbates existing health problems; and

8 WHEREAS, the manner and process by which prescriptions are provided by physicians or
9 other practitioners and filled by pharmacists may unnecessarily contribute to the high costs
10 and anxiety associated with prescription drugs and the lack of available affordable medical
11 insurance coverage; and

12 WHEREAS, the citizens of this state are expecting the General Assembly to take meaningful
13 and informed action with regard to medical insurance and prescription drug costs; and

14 WHEREAS, the current law found in Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 26 relating to
15 prescription drugs does not adequately address the issue of whether the practice of "prior
16 approval" of physicians for certain prescription medications is a cost-effective, necessary,
17 or equitable practice or whether it is in the best interest of the health and welfare of Georgia
18 citizens for such practice to be permitted to continue; and

19 WHEREAS, many treating physicians are opposed to the imposition of "prior approval"
20 requirements by insurance companies as these practices are costly and unnecessarily time
21 consuming for doctors and medical staff, as well as patients; and

1 WHEREAS, in finding a solution to the issue of prior approval, the fiscal impact of doing
2 away with such approval requirement on both private industry and the state must be
3 determined; and

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

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

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