

Senate Resolution 1288

By: Senator Thompson of the 5th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Organization of Mental Health, Developmental
2 Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases Services; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases services are
4 among the most significant health and social services provided by the Department of Human
5 Resources; and

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly created within the Department of Human Resources the
7 Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases to supervise
8 the delivery of public mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases
9 services; and

10 WHEREAS, House Bill 100 (Act No. 552, Ga. L. 1993, p. 1445) restructured the public
11 delivery system supervised by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,
12 and Addictive Diseases of the Department of Human Resources by creating regional boards
13 to facilitate, coordinate, and plan the delivery of services throughout the state and by creating
14 community service boards to succeed county boards of health as providers of mental health,
15 developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases services not provided by other public or
16 private providers under contract with the regional boards; and

17 WHEREAS, a thorough legislative study is needed to determine if the delivery system
18 created pursuant to House Bill 100 provides the state with the most effective and efficient
19 organizational structure for the delivery of public mental health, developmental disabilities,
20 and addictive diseases services and, particularly, whether adequate services are being
21 delivered in the most cost efficient manner.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
23 Study Committee on the Organization of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
24 Addictive Diseases Services to be composed of five members of the Senate to be appointed

1 by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a member of the committee as
2 chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a comprehensive study
4 of the needs of the state with respect to the organization of the public delivery system for
5 mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases services. Without limiting
6 the generality of the foregoing, such study should specifically address:

7 (1) The effectiveness and adequacy of assistance provided by the regional and community
8 service boards;

9 (2) Whether these boards unnecessarily duplicate service efforts, administration, and
10 public spending;

11 (3) The need for regional boards as a level of governance between the Division of Mental
12 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases and the community service
13 boards;

14 (4) Whether community service boards may be more effectively and efficiently operated
15 as units and employees of the Department of Human Resources; and

16 (5) The capability of the current delivery system to provide a comprehensive range of
17 quality services to consumers and their families in all geographic areas of the state.

18 The study committee shall study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned
19 above or related thereto and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee
20 deems necessary or appropriate.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
22 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
23 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
24 of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized
25 for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not
26 more than ten days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out
27 the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the
28 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
29 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2008.
30 The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2008.