

House Resolution 1972

By: Representatives Kidd of the 141st, Collins of the 27th, Channell of the 116th, and Parrish of the 156th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Durable Medical Equipment Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the term "durable medical equipment" is used to describe medical equipment
3 used by a patient to aid quality of life; and
- 4 WHEREAS, durable medical equipment includes a wide variety of equipment from
5 wheelchairs and crutches to blood glucose machines; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the costs of durable medical equipment have risen dramatically in recent years;
7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, some Georgians in need of durable medical equipment are struggling to afford
9 vital equipment to maintain their quality of life, and study is needed to determine why the
10 costs of durable medical equipment have increased so dramatically; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the federal medicare program is investigating the incidence of fraudulent
12 suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, and orthotics supplies which could be
13 leading to increased costs to medicare beneficiaries; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services has found that
15 certain products are being billed to medicare at higher than normal rates and include such
16 items as motorized wheelchairs, nebulizers and aerosol medications, artificial limbs, and
17 wound therapy treatments; and
- 18 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine if the costs of durable medical equipment in
19 Georgia are in line with the national average, to analyze why the costs of durable medical
20 equipment are increasing so rapidly, and to identify if fraudulent practices are occurring in
21 this state.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 there is created the House Durable Medical Equipment Study Committee to be composed of
24 five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. One member shall
25 be an employee of the Department of Community Health, one shall be a member of the
26 House Committee on Health and Human Services, and one shall be an expert in the field of
27 medicare. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the
28 committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
30 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
31 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
32 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
33 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
34 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. In the event the committee makes
35 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, such
36 report shall be made on or before December 1, 2010. The committee shall stand abolished
37 on December 1, 2010.