

Senate Resolution 635

By: Senators Henson of the 41st and Tate of the 38th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Georgia Health Disparities for Asian and Pacific
2 Islander Americans; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, health disparity for African Americans in Georgia has been well documented,
4 but studies related to the health disparity among other minority groups in Georgia are
5 lacking; and

6 WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander American populations are among the
7 fastest growing ethnic backgrounds in Georgia with a growth rate of 33 percent for Asian
8 Americans and 44 percent for Pacific Islanders from 2000 to 2004; and

9 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are collectively the minority groups with
10 the second highest decline in health conditions next to the Native American population; and

11 WHEREAS, significant scientific studies show that the clinical cut off markers for chronic
12 diseases could be remarkably lower for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in comparison
13 to the general population; and

14 WHEREAS, peer-reviewed scientific literature also indicates that the incidence of type 2
15 diabetes is high for nonobese Asian and Pacific Islander Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, research on the total prevalence of diabetes and other chronic diseases is
17 currently unavailable for the Asian and Pacific Islander population of the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, although studies comparing the occurrence of diabetes in the Caucasian
19 population with that of the Asian and Pacific Islander populations have been performed in
20 California and Hawaii, no such research exists on Georgia's population; and

21 WHEREAS, comprehensive study is needed in the area of the health issues in the Asian and
22 Pacific Islander populations of Georgia in order to estimate health risks, ensure the proper
23 provision of educational information to at risk communities, update the Georgia Health
24 Disparity Report, and modify the standard of care provided to these Americans.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
26 Study Committee on Georgia Racial Health Disparities for Asian and Pacific Islander
27 Americans to be composed of five members to be appointed by the President of the Senate
28 who shall designate one member as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of
29 the committee.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the health
31 risks, language barrier issues, and health funding disparities present in Asian and Pacific
32 Islander American communities. Furthermore, the committee shall recommend any action
33 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
34 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
35 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
36 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
37 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
38 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
39 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
40 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
41 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
42 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
43 made on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December
44 31, 2009.