

Senate Resolution 664

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Hawkins of the 49th, Unterman of the 45th and Goggans of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Acknowledging the importance of a comprehensive approach to providing patient centered
2 care and creating the Senate Study Committee on the Patient Centered Medical Home; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, medical homes will provide patient centered care that is accessible, continuous,
5 and coordinated with a focus on maintaining a healthy lifestyle for patients with preventive
6 and ongoing health services; and

7 WHEREAS, the primary care provided at medical homes would be respectful of, and
8 responsive to, individual patient preferences, needs, and values; and

9 WHEREAS, physicians practicing in medical homes would target eligible individuals for
10 program participation and be responsible for providing safe and secure technology to
11 promote patient access to personal health information, developing a health assessment tool
12 for the targeted individuals, and providing training for personnel involved in the coordination
13 of care; and

14 WHEREAS, personal physicians in medical homes would be eligible for case management
15 fees and incentive payments for providing "medical home" services; and

16 WHEREAS, personal physicians who provide first contact and continuous care for their
17 patients shall be board certified and must have a staff and the resources to manage the
18 comprehensive and coordinated care of each of their patients; and

19 WHEREAS, participating physicians may be specialists or subspecialists for patients
20 requiring ongoing care for specific conditions, multiple chronic conditions, or for those with
21 a prolonged illness; and

22 WHEREAS, personal physicians would be responsible for providing ongoing support,
23 oversight, and guidance to implement an integrated, coherent, cross-discipline plan of care
24 developed in partnership with patients and any of their other medical providers; and

25 WHEREAS, physicians in medical homes would be required to use evidence based medicine
26 and clinical decision support tools to guide their decision making to patient-specific
27 symptoms; and

28 WHEREAS, the use of health information technology would be required of physicians in
29 medical homes, and patients would be encouraged to engage in management of their own
30 health through education and support systems; and

31 WHEREAS, the evaluation of the patient centered medical home would be based on patient
32 satisfaction, provider satisfaction, clinical process and outcome measures, program costs and
33 savings, and economic impact on health care providers; and

34 WHEREAS, evaluation would be on the extent to which the medical home coordinated
35 health care services, provided safe and high-quality care, encouraged long-term patient and
36 provider relationships, engaged and educated consumers, and encouraged innovation in
37 payment methodologies.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
39 Study Committee on the Patient Centered Medical Home to be composed of seven members
40 to be appointed by the President of the Senate. Three shall be members of the Senate and
41 four shall be members of the public who shall include one member of the Georgia Academy
42 of Family Physicians, one member from the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of
43 Pediatrics, one member from the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians,
44 and one member from the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association. The President of the
45 Senate shall designate the Chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
46 as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
48 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
49 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
50 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
51 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
52 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee

53 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
54 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
55 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
56 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
57 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
58 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
59 made on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December
60 31, 2009.