

Senate Resolution 665

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Rogers of the 21st, Hill of the 32nd and Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Administration of Dental Benefits for Medicaid and PeachCare Study
2 Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there are over 1 million Georgia children who are enrolled or are eligible for
4 Medicaid and PeachCare, and many more children will be seeking health care benefits in
5 light of the national recession and the current economic climate; and

6 WHEREAS, dental care is essential for a child's development, well-being, and happiness;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, a provider network of dentists available to Georgia's children is vital in ensuring
9 that the children of Georgia do not go without adequate oral health care resources; and

10 WHEREAS, dental care for Medicaid and PeachCare children in the State of Georgia is
11 mandated by the federal government; and

12 WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Georgia demand and expect that state and federal
13 funding to provide such services is being utilized in the most efficient manner; and

14 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the issues and facts relating to the provision of state
15 and federally funded dental care for children in the State of Georgia is needed to protect the
16 health of this state's citizens and the economic vitality of Georgia.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
18 Administration of Dental Benefits for Medicaid and PeachCare Study Committee to be
19 composed of six members to be appointed by the President of the Senate who shall designate
20 one member as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the
22 administration of dental benefits for Medicaid and PeachCare recipients. The study shall
23 focus on the number of Georgia children not being served, the adequacy of the dental
24 network of providers, payments to care management organizations for their services, and the
25 financial implications of transferring the administration to a single administrator model. The
26 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
27 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
28 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the
29 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
30 Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be
31 received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
32 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
33 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its
34 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
35 shall be made on or before December 1, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on
36 December 1, 2009.