

House Resolution 771

By: Representatives Neal of the 1st, Butler of the 18th, Benfield of the 85th, Coan of the 101st, Morgan of the 39th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Addiction Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery
2 (APTR); and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, drug addiction is a growing problem in today's society and threatens to tear
4 apart families and entire communities; and

5 WHEREAS, abuse of addictive drugs can lead to health issues, overdose, and death for the
6 user, while the communities in which addicts live suffer from increased health problems,
7 high crime rates, and unemployment; and

8 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the economic return from investment in drug abuse
9 treatment and prevention programs by determining the accessibility of these programs to
10 addicts and the possible savings that result from such programs, such as reduced health care
11 costs, crime, and spending for social services; and

12 WHEREAS, current regulations related to addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery
13 must be studied to determine if the current practices create barriers to treatment and are
14 reflective of scientific knowledge regarding quality of care; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia laws must be further studied to determine if the appropriate ethical
16 standards are present in licensing requirements for treatment programs and facilities and to
17 aid in establishing a clear definition of what constitutes a treatment program; and

18 WHEREAS, verification of the source of funding for treatment programs is needed, and
19 options for increasing funding streams and the possibility of coordinating state provided
20 services must be explored; and

21 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine whether current addiction prevention, treatment,
22 and recovery support purchasing practices are effective, including training methods and the
23 use of evidenced based practices; and

24 WHEREAS, the possibility of using performance based contracting or other strategies to
25 enhance treatment, prevention, and recovery outcomes needs exploration; and

26 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the issues and facts relating to drug addiction
27 prevention, treatment, and recovery, the programs and methods used to assist those suffering
28 from addiction, and an attempt to establish an effective policy on such areas is needed to
29 protect the health of Georgia citizens.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 there is created the House Study Committee on Addiction Prevention, Treatment, and
32 Recovery (APTR) to be composed of five members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
33 House of Representatives who shall designate one member as chairperson. The chairperson
34 shall call all meetings of the committee.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of current
36 practices for treating and preventing drug addiction and identify the best economic,
37 regulatory, financial, and administrative practices for treatment and recovery programs.
38 Furthermore, the committee shall recommend any action or legislation which the committee
39 deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places
40 and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
41 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
42 resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code
43 Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by
44 this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days
45 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
46 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the
47 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
48 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2009.
49 The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2009.