

## House Resolution 252

By: Representatives Kidd of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Reece of the 11<sup>th</sup>, and Buckner of the 130<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Adult Mental Health and Disability Facilities; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the face of the recent economic downturn, the State of Georgia is considering  
4 the release of mentally disabled patients from institutions in order to cut down on state costs;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, state run adult mental health treatment institutions and facilities are being  
7 closed or are severely underfunded; and

8 WHEREAS, the closing of adult mental health treatment facilities and the release of these  
9 patients will force families to make the difficult choice of finding costly private care for their  
10 loved ones or leaving them untreated; and

11 WHEREAS, adults with mental health disabilities who are not treated pose a risk to  
12 communities, families, and the patients themselves; and

13 WHEREAS, proponents of closing state run hospitals for adults with mental disabilities  
14 suggest that patients would benefit from community based services instead of institutions;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, it is important to study the incidence of violence among Georgia's adults with  
17 mental disabilities to determine if community based services are the safest treatment option  
18 for both the patient and the community in which they are to live and work; and

19 WHEREAS, the consequences of closing adult mental health treatment facilities in Georgia  
20 should be studied in relation to a patient's mental health needs, a community's desire for  
21 safety and security, and the state's obligation to mental health patients and citizens before  
22 further action is taken.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
24 there is created the House Study Committee on Adult Mental Health and Disability Facilities  
25 to be composed of six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
26 one of whom shall be a member of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,  
27 one of whom shall be a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and one a  
28 member of the House Committee on State Institutions and Property. The Speaker shall  
29 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall  
30 call all meetings of the committee.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
32 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and 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. In the event the committee makes  
37 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, such  
38 report shall be made on or before December 1, 2011. The committee shall stand abolished  
39 on December 1, 2011.