

Senate Bill 62

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Shafer of the 48th, Unterman of the 45th, Miller of the 49th, Gooch of the 51st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to care
2 and protection of indigent and elderly patients, so as to establish the Federal and State
3 Funded Health Care Financing Programs Overview Committee; to provide for its
4 composition, officers, terms of office, duties and responsibilities, and funding; to provide for
5 assistance from other state officers and agencies in the performance of the duties of the
6 committee; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 8 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to care and
11 protection of indigent and elderly patients, is amended by adding a new article to read as
12 follows:

13 "ARTICLE 9

14 31-8-210.

15 (a) There is created as a joint committee of the General Assembly the Federal and State
16 Funded Health Care Financing Programs Overview Committee to be composed of one
17 member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; one
18 member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; the chairperson of the
19 House Committee on Appropriations or his or her designee; the chairperson of the House
20 Committee on Health and Human Services or his or her designee; the chairperson of the
21 House Committee on Ways and Means or his or her designee; the chairperson of the Senate
22 Appropriations Committee or his or her designee; the chairperson of the Senate Health and
23 Human Services Committee or his or her designee; the chairperson of the Senate Finance
24 Committee; and the minority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives or their
25 designees. The members of the committee shall serve two-year terms concurrent with their

26 terms as members of the General Assembly. The chairperson of the committee shall be
27 appointed by the President of the Senate from the membership of the committee, and the
28 vice chairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House from the
29 membership of the committee. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall serve terms of
30 two years concurrent with their terms as members of the General Assembly. Vacancies in
31 an appointed member's position or in the offices of chairperson or vice chairperson of the
32 committee shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original
33 appointment. The committee shall periodically inquire into and review the actions of the
34 board and the department under this article to evaluate the success with which the board
35 and the department are accomplishing the statutory duties and functions as provided in this
36 article.

37 (b) The state auditor, the Attorney General, and all other agencies of state government,
38 upon request by the committee, shall assist the committee in the discharge of its duties set
39 forth in this Code section. The committee may employ not more than two staff members
40 and may secure the services of independent accountants, engineers, and consultants.

41 (c) The board and the department shall cooperate with the committee, its authorized
42 personnel, the Attorney General, the state auditor, the state accounting officer, and other
43 state agencies in order that the charges of the committee set forth in this Code section may
44 be timely and efficiently discharged. The board and the department shall submit to the
45 committee such reports and data as the committee shall reasonably require of the board and
46 the department in order that the committee may adequately perform its functions. The
47 Attorney General is authorized to bring appropriate legal actions to enforce any laws
48 specifically or generally relating to duties and obligations of the board and the department
49 with regard to federal and state funded health care programs. The committee shall, on or
50 before the first day of January of each year, and at such other times as it deems necessary,
51 submit to the General Assembly a report of its findings and recommendations based upon
52 the review of the board and the department as set forth in this Code section.

53 (d)(1) The committee is authorized to expend state funds available to the committee for
54 the discharge of its duties. Said funds may be used for the purposes of compensating
55 staff personnel, paying for services of independent accountants, engineers, and
56 consultants, and paying all other necessary expenses incurred by the committee in
57 performing its duties.

58 (2) The members of the committee shall receive the same compensation, per diem,
59 expenses, and allowances for their service on the committee as is authorized by law for
60 members of interim legislative study committees.

61 (3) The funds necessary for the purposes of the committee shall come from the funds
62 appropriated to and available to the legislative branch of government."

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SECTION 2.

64 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
65 without such approval.

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SECTION 3.

67 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.