

House Resolution 603

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 43rd, Watson of the 166th, and Jones of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Community Health to collect and report certain data relating to
2 bariatric surgical procedures; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the
4 United States, Georgia ranks 17th in obesity, 12th in diabetes, and 11th in hypertension; and

5 WHEREAS, bariatric surgery can positively impact obesity related conditions, and 90
6 percent of obesity related medical illnesses either improve or resolve following weight loss
7 surgery; and

8 WHEREAS, serious obesity comorbidities such as diabetes, hyperlipidemia, hypertension,
9 and sleep apnea are completely resolved or reduced following weight loss surgery, and
10 weight loss after surgery leads to a significant reduction in medication expenses; and

11 WHEREAS, health plans in 43 states provide bariatric surgery coverage, including most
12 recently Texas, Utah, and Idaho, and several states, such as South Carolina and Mississippi,
13 are conducting pilot programs for bariatric surgery benefits for state employees; and

14 WHEREAS, three of Georgia's current state health plans (Medicare Advantage Standard,
15 Medicare Advantage Premium, and Tricare Supplement) provide coverage nationally; and

16 WHEREAS, public and private insurers have seen the ultimate benefits related to coverage,
17 both in relation to improving the health and lives of the patient and in a cost-benefit analysis
18 to the insurer; and

19 WHEREAS, coverage for bariatric surgical procedures for the treatment and management
20 of obesity and related conditions was provided under the Georgia state employees' health
21 insurance plan until 2011; and

22 WHEREAS, pursuant to such coverage, approximately 1,900 enrollees underwent bariatric
23 surgical procedures; and

24 WHEREAS, the Department of Community Health has data related to such enrollees prior
25 to and after such surgical procedures; and

26 WHEREAS, to further examine the benefits that can be realized, both medically and
27 financially, by providing coverage for bariatric surgical procedures under the state
28 employees' health plan, it would be beneficial to collect and analyze the data.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
30 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the Department of Community Health is directed to
31 provide the following data by December 31, 2013, to the chairpersons of the House
32 Committee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Health and Human Services
33 Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Appropriations
34 Committee:

35 (1) Claims data to include all coding for facility and provider (total episode of care),
36 including:

37 (A) Date of surgery;

38 (B) Type of procedure (gastric band, laproscopic sleeve gastrectomy, or Rouen-Y gastric
39 bypass);

40 (C) Open or laproscopic surgery; and

41 (D) Actual cost of the surgical procedure (not billed charge);

42 (2) Patient comorbidities before surgery, with metrics and claims for cost of comorbidity
43 for 18 months prior to surgery;

44 (3) Patient comorbidities documented at six, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months after surgery and
45 claims for costs of such comorbidities at the same intervals; and

46 (4) Absentee records for 12 months prior to and six, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months after
47 surgery.