

House Resolution 1528

By: Representatives Kidd of the 145th and Channell of the 120th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Georgia Rural Medical Care Joint Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, rural hospitals in Georgia are the economic engines of a community; and
- 3 WHEREAS, many rural hospitals in Georgia have closed in recent years or are at risk of
4 closing; and
- 5 WHEREAS, residents in rural counties should have access to medical care within their
6 community; and
- 7 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to determine:
- 8 (1) The number of patients in rural areas who require only emergency room care;
- 9 (2) The number of patients in rural areas who require one to three nights' stay in a hospital;
- 10 (3) The number of patients in rural areas who need in excess of 36 hours of hospital care;
- 11 and
- 12 (4) The number of patients in rural areas who are transferred to other medical care
13 facilities; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the establishment of "triage" medical facilities to provide emergency care to
15 serve the immediate and overnight medical needs of the surrounding counties and
16 communities should be studied to determine whether plans should be formulated to authorize
17 such facilities in this state; and
- 18 WHEREAS, such "triage" medical facilities could provide for the stabilization of patients
19 and transport to a hospital upon stabilization, if necessary; and
- 20 WHEREAS, facilities of hospitals at risk of closure could be repurposed as "triage" medical
21 facilities; and

22 WHEREAS, state licensing and other regulatory requirements and federal regulations should
23 be reviewed to determine necessary steps which should be taken to authorize the
24 establishment and operation of "triage" medical facilities in this state.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that there is
26 created the Georgia Rural Medical Care Joint Study Committee to be composed of 10
27 members as follows:

- 28 (1) Four members of the Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 29 (2) Four members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House
30 of Representatives; and
- 31 (3) Two members, appointed by the Governor.

32 The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each
33 designate one of his appointees to serve as cochairpersons. The committee may elect other
34 officers as deemed necessary. The cochairpersons may designate and appoint subcommittees
35 from among the membership of the committee as well as appoint other persons to perform
36 such functions as they may determine to be necessary and relevant to and consistent with this
37 resolution. The cochairpersons shall only vote to break a tie. The committee shall meet at
38 the call of the cochairpersons. A quorum for transacting business shall be a majority of the
39 members of the committee.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct its meetings at such places
41 and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
42 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
43 resolution. Legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for
44 in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Any members of the
45 committee who are state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall
46 receive no compensation for their services on the committee, but they shall be reimbursed
47 for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the
48 committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state
49 officials or employees. Any citizen members of the committee shall receive no
50 compensation for their services on the committee except for the mileage or transportation
51 allowance authorized for state employees. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall
52 not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional
53 days are authorized. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state
54 officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds
55 appropriated to or otherwise available to their departments. All other funds necessary to

56 carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate
57 and House of Representatives.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a report of its findings to the
59 Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Governor, and commissioner
60 of community health on or before December 1, 2014. The committee shall stand abolished
61 on December 1, 2014.