

Senate Resolution 1103

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 20, 2014, as Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy Alert Day at the state capitol;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the United States, it is estimated that 25.8 million people, or 8.3 percent of
4 the total population, are affected by diabetes; and

5 WHEREAS, the American Diabetes Association estimates that over 60 percent of all people
6 with diabetes suffer from diabetic peripheral neuropathy; and

7 WHEREAS, diabetic peripheral neuropathy is a serious condition that damages nerve fibers
8 due to prolonged exposure to high amounts of glucose in the bloodstream; and

9 WHEREAS, diabetic peripheral neuropathy often causes intense pain, frequently described
10 as aching, tingling, burning, and numbness of the feet, which often results in serious foot
11 problems due to nerve damage; and

12 WHEREAS, although it can hurt, diabetic nerve damage can also lessen the ability to feel
13 pain, heat, and cold, which means that diabetic patients may not feel a foot injury or even a
14 stone in their shoe or a nail in their foot; and

15 WHEREAS, the rate of amputations in people with diabetes is ten times higher than for
16 people without diabetes, and studies show that more than 60 percent of nontraumatic lower
17 extremity amputations are due to diabetic peripheral neuropathy; and

18 WHEREAS, diabetic peripheral neuropathy can occur whether a person has Type I diabetes,
19 also known as juvenile diabetes, or Type II diabetes, which is typically adult-onset; and

20 WHEREAS, diabetic peripheral neuropathy accounts for more diabetes related
21 hospitalizations than any other complication; and

22 WHEREAS, regular clinical screenings can reduce the burden of diabetic peripheral
23 neuropathy; and

24 WHEREAS, quality measures, such as those put forth by the Physician Quality Reporting
25 System, can ensure that patients are receiving appropriate evaluations needed to prevent
26 complications resulting from inadequately managed diabetic peripheral neuropathy; and

27 WHEREAS, these kinds of endorsed quality measures should be considered for incorporation
28 into new models of healthcare payment and delivery, such as accountable care organizations;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, it is important that Georgians with diabetes be aware of the dangers and
31 warning signs of diabetic peripheral neuropathy and make healthy lifestyle choices to prevent
32 the onset of this life-changing condition.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 encourage members of the General Assembly and their constituents to partner with the state
35 health department, medical communities, and community-based organizations to raise
36 awareness about the dangers of diabetic peripheral neuropathy and recognize June 20, 2014,
37 as Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy Alert Day at the state capitol.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.