

Senate Resolution 594

By: Senator McKoon of the 29th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Rate of Diagnosis for Children With Attention Deficit Hyperactivity  
2 Disorder and Related Disorders Study Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, nearly one in five high school age boys in the United States and 11 percent of  
4 school-age children overall have received a medical diagnosis of attention deficit  
5 hyperactivity disorder (A.D.H.D.), according to recent data from the federal Centers for  
6 Disease Control and Prevention; and

7 WHEREAS, these rates reflect a marked rise over the last decade and are fueling growing  
8 concern among many doctors that the A.D.H.D. diagnosis and its medication, and diagnoses  
9 of related disorders, are overused in American children; and

10 WHEREAS, figures show that an estimated 6.4 million children ages four through 17 have  
11 received an A.D.H.D. diagnosis at some point in their lives, a 16 percent increase since 2007  
12 and a 41 percent rise in the past decade; and

13 WHEREAS, about two-thirds of those with a current diagnosis receive prescriptions for  
14 stimulants like Ritalin or Adderall, which can drastically improve the lives of those with  
15 A.D.H.D., but can lead to addiction, anxiety, and occasionally psychosis; and

16 WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association's plan to change the definition of  
17 A.D.H.D. to allow more people to receive the diagnosis and treatment is being met with  
18 mixed results with some doctors and patient advocates welcoming the rise of diagnosis rates  
19 as evidence the disorder is being better recognized and accepted, and others suggesting that  
20 millions of children may be taking medication merely to calm behavior and to do better in  
21 school; and

22 WHEREAS, the sales of stimulants to treat A.D.H.D. and similar disorders more than  
23 doubled to \$9 billion in 2012 from \$4 billion in 2007, and a study is needed to determine if  
24 these drugs are being over-prescribed due to misdiagnosis and other reasons.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

26 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Rate of Diagnosis  
27 for Children With Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Related Disorders Study  
28 Committee.

29 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
30 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate the  
31 chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee as chairperson of the  
32 committee.

33 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
34 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
35 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

36 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee  
37 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
38 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
39 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

40 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

41 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided  
42 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

43 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
44 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
45 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
46 appropriated to the Senate.

47 (6) **Report.**

48 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
49 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the  
50 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
51 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

52 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
53 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)  
54 of this paragraph.

55 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
56 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

57 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
58 the Secretary of the Senate.

59 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary  
60 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

61 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.