

House Resolution 1509

By: Representatives Kidd of the 145th, Powell of the 32nd, Clark of the 101st, and Cooper of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Ambulance Service Rates; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, ambulance services are a vital and necessary component of any emergency
3 medical services system, including transport by land and air; and

4 WHEREAS, due to the nature of the circumstances, an individual in need of emergency
5 transport, either by ambulance service or air ambulance, has no say regarding how he or she
6 will be delivered to a medical facility and is not in a position to contact his or her health
7 insurer or negotiate rates with the ambulance service or air ambulance; and

8 WHEREAS, anecdotal data has indicated that patients transported, particularly by air
9 ambulance, are receiving surprisingly large medical bills from ambulance services and
10 insurance companies, and government health care programs are covering less and less for
11 such services; and

12 WHEREAS, a study would be beneficial to identify rates charged by ambulance services and
13 air ambulances in this state to determine if state regulation of such rates is necessary to
14 ensure the affordability and access to emergency transport for Georgians.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

16 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
17 on Ambulance Service Rates.

18 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
19 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate one of such members as chairperson.

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

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

28 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
29 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
30 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
31 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
32 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
33 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

34 (6) **Report.**

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

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

42 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
43 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
44 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
45 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

46 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
47 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
48 thereof.

49 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.