

Senate Resolution 1091

By: Senators Bethel of the 54th, Unterman of the 45th, Henson of the 41st, Butler of the 55th, Shafer of the 48th and others

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Hearing Aids for Children; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the language development of children with partial or total hearing loss may be
3 impaired due to the hearing loss; and

4 WHEREAS, children learn the concept of spoken language through auditory stimuli, and the
5 language skills of children who have hearing loss improve when they are provided with
6 hearing aids and access to visual language upon the discovery of hearing loss; and

7 WHEREAS, providing hearing aids to children with hearing loss will reduce the costs borne
8 by this state, including special education, alternative treatments that would otherwise be
9 necessary if a hearing aid were not provided, and other costs associated with such hearing
10 loss; and

11 WHEREAS, a study of health insurance coverage for hearing aids for children and the
12 components of that coverage and options is critical when considering how to best address the
13 provision of hearing aids to children.

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

15 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
16 on Hearing Aids for Children.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
18 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. At least two of the members shall
19 be from the minority party, including the Minority Leader. The President shall designate
20 a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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 Senate.

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 Secretary of the Senate.

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

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