

## Senate Resolution 1165

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Unterman of the 45th, Kirk of the 13th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Orrock of the 36th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Opioid Abuse Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, heroin use in adults between the ages of 18 and 25 has doubled in the last ten  
3 years; and
- 4 WHEREAS, between 2002 and 2013, the rate of heroin-related overdose deaths nearly  
5 quadrupled, and more than 8,200 people died in 2013; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the rate of heroin overdoses nationally has increased by 286 percent since 2002;  
7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, naloxone is an opioid antagonist with the ability to stop an opioid overdose in  
9 a patient long enough to get the patient to a hospital; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has taken steps to increase access to naloxone in recent  
11 years; and
- 12 WHEREAS, other states that have made naloxone available for purchase over the counter  
13 have seen positive results; and
- 14 WHEREAS, opioid abuse has been on the rise across the country, and it is important to  
15 investigate what actions need to be taken to save lives in Georgia.
- 16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:
- 17 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Opioid Abuse  
18 Study Committee.
- 19 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members to be  
20 appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

- 21 (A) Two members of the Senate, including the chairperson of the Senate Health and  
22 Human Services Committee;
- 23 (B) The commissioner of public health, or his or her designee;
- 24 (C) The Director of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, or his or her designee;
- 25 (D) A registered pharmacist;
- 26 (E) A qualified medical doctor with a specialty in opioid addiction or abuse; and
- 27 (F) A citizen with personal experience with opioid overdose.

28 The President shall designate the chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services  
29 Committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

37 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

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

40 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
41 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the  
42 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the  
43 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they  
44 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

45 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
46 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
47 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
48 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
49 employees.

50 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
51 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
52 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
53 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of  
54 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the  
55 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise  
56 available to their respective agencies.

57 (6) **Report.**

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

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

65 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
66 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
67 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
68 the Secretary of the Senate.

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

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