

House Resolution 464

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Henson of the 86th, Price of the 48th, and Lott of the 122nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Infectious Disease Preparedness; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has a responsibility to safeguard and protect the health and
4 well-being of its citizens from the spread of infectious diseases; and

5 WHEREAS, addressing infectious diseases requires the coordination and cooperation of
6 multiple governmental entities at the local, state, and federal levels; and

7 WHEREAS, the risk of Zika virus is of greatest concern for pregnant women, who can pass
8 it to their developing fetus if infected during pregnancy; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks third in the nation for confirmed cases of Zika virus, with 109
10 documented cases of Zika virus in Georgia as of December 7, 2016, all of which were travel
11 related; and

12 WHEREAS, as of December 7, 2016, there were 6 confirmed cases of Zika virus in pregnant
13 women in Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, of the 1,321 individuals tested for the Zika virus in Georgia, 55 were
15 presymptomatic; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and
17 problems associated with prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious
18 diseases, including but not limited to Zika virus, Ebola, West Nile disease, and other
19 emerging infectious diseases, and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee
20 deems necessary or appropriate.

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

22 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
23 on Infectious Disease Preparedness.

24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
25 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
27 of the committee.

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

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

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

41 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

56 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.