

The House Committee on Special Rules offers the following substitute to HR 240:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Georgians' Barriers to Access to Adequate Health  
2 Care; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, disparities in health outcomes are increasingly costly to the state, financially  
4 and socially, but are in large part preventable; and

5 WHEREAS, people with chronic conditions and mental illness require seamless health care  
6 from provider to treatment; and

7 WHEREAS, severe asthma affects a small subpopulation of patients with asthma but has a  
8 disproportionately high economic, clinical, and social burden for patients, their caregivers  
9 and families, employers, and the health care system; and

10 WHEREAS, the current asthma state plan expires in 2018; identifying barriers to effective  
11 prevention, screening, medication adherence, and treatment for asthma, severe asthma, and  
12 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) would be in the state's interest; and

13 WHEREAS, identifying the barriers to HIV awareness, testing, and early linkage to care  
14 would be in the state's best interest; Georgia ranks fifth in the nation for new HIV diagnoses;  
15 the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta area is listed as eighth in cities with the highest rate of  
16 new HIV infection; it is estimated that one in 51 Georgians are at risk of contracting HIV in  
17 their future; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia's adult obesity rate is now above 30 percent of total population, up  
19 from 20.6 percent in 2000 and from 10.1 percent in 1990; and

20 WHEREAS, obesity is responsible for multiple related health issues including diabetes,  
21 hypertension, arthritis, heart disease, and some forms of cancer; and

22 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the  
23 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend immunizations for  
24 adults, against 13 different vaccine-preventable diseases, including influenza, tetanus,  
25 diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), varicella (chicken pox), zoster (shingles), measles,  
26 mumps, rubella, pneumococcal disease (pneumonia), meningococcal disease (meningitis),  
27 hepatitis A, and hepatitis B; and

28 WHEREAS, each year in the United States, one million people get shingles and some will  
29 have severe pain that can continue long after their rash clears up (called postherpetic  
30 neuralgia) or they may suffer from other painful complications that could persist for years;  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, the CDC estimates that since 2010 flu related hospitalizations in the United  
33 States have ranged from 140,000 to 710,000 and flu related deaths have ranged from 12,000  
34 to 56,000. About 900,000 people get pneumococcal pneumonia every year, leading to as  
35 many as 400,000 hospitalizations and 19,000 deaths; 700,000 to 1.4 million people suffer  
36 from chronic hepatitis B, with complications such as liver cancer; HPV causes over 27,000  
37 cancers in women and men each year; and about 4,000 women die each year from cervical  
38 cancer; and

39 WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of experts about the effectiveness and safety of  
40 adult vaccines, immunization rates remain low and far beneath national targets; and

41 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to:

- 42 (1) Measure the effectiveness of Medicaid's and the state health benefit plans'  
43 coordinated and managed behavioral health services, substance abuse treatment, bariatric  
44 treatment, and adult immunizations;
- 45 (2) Assess the need for an asthma and COPD state plan to take effect in 2019;
- 46 (3) Examine the risk adjustment between the Medicaid and state health benefit plans,  
47 including high risk patients with behavioral conditions and early onset of chronic disease;
- 48 (4) Examine the benefit package for gap-group and Medicaid enrollees and analyze their  
49 needs;
- 50 (5) Assess the HIV laws' alignment with current evidence regarding HIV transmission  
51 risk and consider whether these laws are the best vehicle to achieve their intended  
52 purpose; and

53 (6) Examine comprehensive behavioral health services for those suffering from serious  
54 mental illness which have been demonstrated to have a positive impact on medical  
55 outcomes and reduced burdens on patients, providers, families, and society.

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

57 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
58 on Georgians' Barriers to Access to Adequate Health Care.

59 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
60 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
61 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional four nonlegislative  
62 members of the committee as follows: one practicing psychiatrist, one practicing  
63 respiratory therapist, one practicing infectious disease physician, and one practicing  
64 physician. The Speaker shall designate a legislative member of the committee as  
65 chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

86 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
87 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
88 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds

89 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement  
90 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the  
91 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated  
92 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

93 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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