

House Resolution 745

By: Representatives Beskin of the 54th, Newton of the 123rd, Price of the 48th, Coomer of the 14th, Cooper of the 43rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Surprise Insurance Gap Coverage; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, consumers continue to struggle with health care costs which are greatly
4 exacerbated by surprise gaps in their insurance coverage; and

5 WHEREAS, insurers continue to narrow networks and Georgia is ranked in the top two
6 states nationally with the most narrow networks, resulting in patients in the care of
7 out-of-network providers, most frequently in emergency situations; and

8 WHEREAS, several states have passed laws to protect health care consumers from surprise
9 insurance gaps; and

10 WHEREAS, these state laws provide protection for patients when they receive a balance bill
11 due to a surprise insurance gap; and

12 WHEREAS, there is little or no protection in Georgia from surprise insurance gaps relative
13 to other states, and it would be beneficial to conduct a study into how these laws are working
14 in other states and how these laws may be beneficial to Georgia citizens.

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 Surprise Insurance Gap Coverage.

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 a member of the committee as chairperson
21 of the committee.

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

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

29 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

36 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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