

House Resolution 340 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Clark of the 147th, Peake of the 141st, Gravley of the 67th, Clark of the 98th, Dempsey of the 13th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Georgia's congressional delegation and the United States Congress to amend the
2 Controlled Substances Act of 1970 so as to authorize the study of medical marijuana in
3 Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, over half of the states and the District of Columbia allow the medical use of
5 marijuana, including Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, additional states such as Georgia have enacted measures that allow patients
7 suffering from intractable epilepsy – and sometimes other conditions – to use marijuana
8 products that have low concentrations of THC; and

9 WHEREAS, the possibility of federal intervention could prevent the implementation of
10 recent laws to allow low-THC strains of marijuana for patients suffering from intractable
11 epilepsy; and

12 WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed HB 1 in 2015 and the Governor signed it into law,
13 thus affirming our support of states setting medical marijuana policy; and

14 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds and declares in enacting the Controlled Substances
15 Therapeutic Research Act of 1980 that the potential medicinal value of marijuana has
16 received insufficient study due to a lack of financial incentives for the undertaking of
17 appropriate research by private drug manufacturing concerns; and

18 WHEREAS, the General Assembly further finds and declares that, in enabling individual
19 physicians and their patients to participate in a state-sponsored program for the
20 investigational use of marijuana and its derivatives, qualified physicians and surgeons
21 throughout the state will be able to study the benefits of the drug in a controlled clinical
22 setting, and additional knowledge will be gained with respect to dosage and effects; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States Congress, in the Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations
24 Act of 2015, and renewed in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, the Continuing
25 Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
26 Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act, and the Further
27 Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 codified a funding restriction
28 that prohibits the Department of Justice from using any funds to prevent states from
29 implementing their own state laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or
30 cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body urge the Congress of the United States to amend the Controlled
33 Substances Act of 1970 so as to reclassify marijuana so that its medical benefits and effects
34 may be further researched.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to our
37 federal congressional delegation.