

House Resolution 1159

By: Representative Hill of the 3rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Risks Associated with Kratom; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, although kratom is a relatively new drug to the United States, it has been used
4 for many years in Southeast Asia as an anti-diarrheal medicine, a painkiller, and a
5 recreational drug; and

6 WHEREAS, kratom is a plant that grows in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Papua New
7 Guinea. However, kratom is banned in Australia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand and,
8 in the United States, is banned in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Tennessee, and Wisconsin;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, kratom is being advertised as a replacement for opioid painkillers and touted
11 as a way to treat addiction to opioids; and

12 WHEREAS, kratom is contained in unregulated supplements as a concentration booster and
13 workout enhancer; and

14 WHEREAS, according to FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, "evidence shows that kratom
15 has similar effects to narcotics like opioids, and carries similar risks of abuse, addiction and
16 in some cases, death"; and

17 WHEREAS, calls to poison control centers in the United States regarding kratom have
18 increased ten-fold from 2010 to 2015; and

19 WHEREAS, on February 6, 2018, Commissioner Gottlieb released a statement declaring
20 kratom to be an opioid; and

21 WHEREAS, "As the scientific data and adverse event reports have clearly revealed,
22 compounds in kratom make it so it isn't just a plant — it's an opioid," Commissioner Gottlieb
23 declared in the statement; and

24 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the use and risks of kratom to determine if action
25 by the state is necessary to address the issue.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 GEORGIA:

28 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
29 Risks Associated with Kratom.

30 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members, as
31 follows:

32 (A) Three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
33 of the House of Representatives, who shall designate one of such members as
34 cochairperson; and

35 (B) Three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, who
36 shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

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

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

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

50 (6) **Report.**

51 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
52 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
53 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
54 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

55 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
56 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
57 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

58 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
59 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

60 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
61 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

62 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk
63 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes
64 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

65 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.