

Senate Resolution 832

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate 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 a painkiller and a recreational drug; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

26 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
27 on Risks Associated with Kratom.

28 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of three members of the
29 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
30 legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

44 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

54 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
55 the Secretary of the Senate.

56 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
57 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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