

House Resolution 1374

By: Representatives Harrell of the 106th, Brockway of the 102nd, Jones of the 47th, Raffensperger of the 50th, and Lott of the 122nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Professional Licensing Boards Operations and
2 Funding; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, professional licensing boards protect the public by ensuring that certain
4 occupations are performed by appropriately trained professionals; and

5 WHEREAS, licensing of occupations provides a structure for enforcing professional and
6 ethical standards and the integrity of the members of a profession, thereby protecting the
7 public's health, safety, and welfare; and

8 WHEREAS, creating a mechanism whereby the direct and indirect costs of operating each
9 professional licensing board could be entirely funded by the licensing fees charged to the
10 members of the profession regulated by that board would transform professional licensing
11 from a general fund line item expense model into a direct user fee model; and

12 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to review the existing operations and funding of
13 professional licensing boards in Georgia to determine whether such boards are:

14 (1) Streamlined, optimizing efficiencies of scale, and provide for the appropriate state
15 entity or entities to oversee each licensing board;

16 (2) Provided with adequate funding and staffing required to deliver a reasonable level of
17 customer service and regulatory enforcement;

18 (3) Leveraging available, affordable technologies for faster, more reliable electronic
19 communication and record keeping, both as to internal board operations as well as
20 dissemination of public information; and

21 (4) Charging licensing fees that would be adequate to support all of the direct and indirect
22 costs to the state for the services provided to the various boards; and

23 WHEREAS, it would also be beneficial to study whether there is some mechanism whereby
24 a professional licensing board could retain all of the fees generated by such board so that

25 each board could be funded solely through the user fee method, rather than the state's general
26 fund, and to study ways to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of each professional
27 licensing board in this state.

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

29 (1) **Creation of house study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
30 on Professional Licensing Boards Operations and Funding.

31 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
32 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
33 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate one of such members as chairperson of the
34 committee.

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

38 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
39 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
40 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
41 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. At least one meeting of the
42 committee shall include public comment and testimony.

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

49 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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