

## House Resolution 1431

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Hilton of the 95<sup>th</sup>, Willard of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Healthy Housing; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the health of the citizens of this state is of critical importance to having strong  
3 and vibrant communities, children that learn and thrive, and families that are able to work  
4 and contribute to the growth of this state; and

5 WHEREAS, the *Georgia Healthy Homes Strategic Plan* created by the Georgia Department  
6 of Public Health in 2013 found that "[t]he connection between housing and health is well  
7 established" and "housing-related health issues, including asthma and respiratory illnesses,  
8 lead poisoning, and injuries, remain major public health challenges in Georgia"; and

9 WHEREAS, asthma is the leading cause of school and work absences, emergency  
10 department visits, and hospitalizations in the United States, resulting in annual costs of \$20.7  
11 billion to the nation. Asthma is the second leading health problem among school-aged  
12 children. Exposure to mold and dampness within homes contributes to an estimated 21  
13 percent of all asthma cases in the United States. Asthma directly impacts people living in  
14 substandard housing because of the presence of pests, mold, and other asthma triggers; and

15 WHEREAS, childhood lead exposure can lead to neurological damage, decreased IQ,  
16 increased blood pressure, stunted growth, seizures, coma, and even death. Lead exposure is  
17 linked to housing with chipping, peeling, and flaking lead paint on the exterior and interior  
18 of homes; water from leaded supply lines or plumbing; moisture problems; and other  
19 sources; and

20 WHEREAS, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and most of North Georgia has  
21 been identified as having a moderate to high potential for exposure to radon in homes; and

22 WHEREAS, poor indoor air quality is linked with asthma, lung cancer, chronic obstructive  
23 pulmonary disease, and other diseases affecting adults and children, arising from carbon

24 monoxide, household chemicals, airborne mold spores, radon gases, pests (including  
25 cockroaches, fleas, rats, mice, and bed bugs), particulate matter, and other causes; and

26 WHEREAS unhealthy housing imposes a tremendous economic and social cost to families,  
27 neighborhoods, businesses, schools, hospitals, and government; and

28 WHEREAS, Georgia law provides that "the availability of safe, sanitary, and affordable  
29 housing in the State of Georgia [is] of vital importance to the state and its citizens."  
30 O.C.G.A. Section 36-82-181; and

31 WHEREAS, the factors that contribute to unhealthy housing and the solutions are many and  
32 complex, requiring a study of the causes, consequences, and remedies for unhealthy housing;

33 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia must find a long-term solution to address the problem of  
34 unhealthy housing; and

35 WHEREAS, a study is needed to understand the extent of the problem of unhealthy housing,  
36 the causes, and the solutions, to include:

- 37 (1) An evaluation of the scope of unhealthy housing problems and the impact on Georgia  
38 families;
- 39 (2) An evaluation of the cost of unhealthy housing to the State of Georgia and local  
40 communities, including the Department of Public Health, the Department of Human  
41 Services, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Education; and
- 42 (3) Identification of initiatives and policies currently in place that have been effective in  
43 addressing unhealthy housing in other states.

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

- 45 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
46 on Healthy Housing.
- 47 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
48 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
49 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson  
50 of the committee.
- 51 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
52 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
53 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

58 (5) **Allowances and funding.** Members of the committee who are members of the  
59 General Assembly shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of  
60 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution  
61 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless  
62 additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
63 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

64 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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