

Senate Resolution 194

By: Senators Kirk of the 13th, Dugan of the 30th, Walker III of the 20th, Unterman of the 45th, Beach of the 21st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities
2 to the Department of Community Health; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, developmental disability services are currently provided through the
4 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; and

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Community Health is the sole agency which receives federal
6 Medicaid funds for Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, the Department of Community Health contracts with the Department of
8 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to provide developmental disabilities
9 services under Medicaid; and

10 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to streamline these services and to minimize duplicative
11 oversight and administrative costs; and

12 WHEREAS, to such ends, it would be prudent to formulate a transition plan to transfer the
13 Division of Developmental Disabilities from the Department of Behavioral Health and
14 Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health effective July 1, 2020,
15 including conducting an analysis by the Department of Audits and Accounts to identify and
16 implement best practices in areas including, but not limited to, automatic recertification of
17 waiver recipients, case management reform models, targeted case management reviews for
18 individuals who have been deinstitutionalized or recommended for services, use of national
19 accreditation for service providers, and review of contracted services for quality assurance,
20 delivery of developmental disability services, and other services.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 GEORGIA:

23 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
24 Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community
25 Health.

26 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following
27 members:

28 (A) Three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, who
29 shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

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

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

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

40 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

47 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

62 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.