

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 259:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Johnny Tolbert III House Study Committee on Heat-Related Injuries, Cardiac
2 Injuries, and Other Sports-Related Injuries; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the leading cause of death among young athletes nationally is sudden cardiac
4 arrest; and

5 WHEREAS, in recent years, Georgia has had heat-related football deaths to both youth and
6 high school athletes; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2016, 12-year-old Johnny Tolbert III died from heatstroke during football
8 practice for a youth recreation team at Welcome All Park in South Fulton, Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2015, Burke County High School football player Roddrick "Rod" Williams
10 died shortly after football practice in Waynesboro, Georgia, from heat-related injuries; and

11 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimated that 1,442,533 injuries
12 occurred among high school athletes participating in practice or competitions for football,
13 wrestling, soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and softball; and

14 WHEREAS, there are documented health benefits of increased physical activity, including
15 weight management, improved self-esteem, and increased strength, endurance, and
16 flexibility; and

17 WHEREAS, taking part in sports and recreational activities is an important part of a healthy,
18 physically active lifestyle for kids, but injuries can and do occur. Accordingly, the CDC
19 reports more than 2.6 million children 0-19 years old are treated in the emergency
20 department each year for sports and recreational related injuries; and

21 WHEREAS, the CDC published a study in 2010 that found heat illness to be the leading
22 cause of death and disabilities among high school athletes. The CDC estimated that an
23 average of more than 9,000 heat-related illnesses occur annually among high school athletes;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study injuries related to sports and recreational
26 activities to protect both youth and high school athletes from serious or even catastrophic
27 injuries or illnesses.

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

29 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the Johnny Tolbert III House
30 Study Committee on Heat-Related Injuries, Cardiac Injuries, and Other Sports-Related
31 Injuries.

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

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

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

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, 2019.