

House Resolution 589

By: Representatives Newton of the 123rd, Hatchett of the 150th, England of the 116th, Jones of the 47th, Bentley of the 139th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Maternal Mortality; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, women in the United States are more likely to die of childbirth or
3 pregnancy-related causes than are women in other high-income countries; and
- 4 WHEREAS, according to numerous organizations that rank mortality rates, Georgia is
5 among the top ten states with the highest maternal death rate; and
- 6 WHEREAS, maternal deaths are a serious public health concern and have a tremendous
7 family and societal impact, affecting diverse populations; and
- 8 WHEREAS, maternal deaths are significantly underestimated and inadequately documented,
9 preventing efforts to identify, reduce, or eliminate the causes of death; and
- 10 WHEREAS, more evidence is needed to better understand the actual causes of maternal
11 death, but research suggests that half of these deaths may be preventable; and
- 12 WHEREAS, there is a need to identify, investigate, and disseminate findings regarding
13 maternal deaths and to develop strategies and institute systemic changes to decrease and
14 prevent maternal deaths in Georgia.
- 15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
- 16 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
17 on Maternal Mortality.
- 18 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
19 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
21 of the committee.

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

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

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

30 (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall
31 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
32 Georgia Annotated.

33 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
34 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
35 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
36 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

37 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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