

The House Committee on Human Relations and Aging offers the following substitute to HR 533:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Innovative Financial Options for Senior Living; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the proportion of the Georgia population that is 65 and older will grow  
4 substantially from 1.3 million in 2016 to 2.9 million in 2040, with the greatest rate of growth  
5 among those 85 and older; and

6 WHEREAS, the problem for too many older adults is a lack of affordable independent living  
7 with supportive services when residents can no longer remain in their own home; and

8 WHEREAS, according to a 2018 national survey from the Employee Benefit Research  
9 Institute, only 16 percent of current retirees are "very confident" that they will have enough  
10 money to pay for long-term care; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2016 the number of adults in Georgia age 65 or older and living below the  
12 federal poverty level was 134,000 or 10 percent and the number living below 250 percent of  
13 the federal poverty level was 540,000 or 40 percent; and

14 WHEREAS, due to declining birth rates in the United States, there are a growing number of  
15 senior "orphans" with no immediate family to help with their support; and

16 WHEREAS, census projections indicate 29 percent of Georgians age 75 or older live alone;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, in studies, older adults who live alone and had multiple chronic conditions were  
19 more likely to be hospitalized than were those adults living in senior housing facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, older adults who lack access to supportive living and who qualify for Medicaid  
21 often turn to costly nursing home care when their health declines, costing state taxpayers a  
22 share of these expenses; and

23 WHEREAS, studies have found that pairing affordable housing and healthcare services  
24 significantly improved access to primary care and cut emergency department visits while also  
25 lowering Medicaid costs; and

26 WHEREAS, low-income older adults forced to spend a high percentage of their income on  
27 housing will often cut back on what they spend on food or health care, resulting in costlier  
28 emergency room and hospital admittance; and

29 WHEREAS, older adults who rent housing face a wealth gap compared to those who own  
30 their homes, and this gap impedes their ability to afford assisted living; census estimates  
31 calculate that 31 percent of Georgians age 65 or older who live alone are renters; and

32 WHEREAS, the current Department of Human Services wait list for non-Medicaid home and  
33 community services in Georgia exceeds 7,000 older adults; and

34 WHEREAS, Georgia law prohibits assisted living licensed facilities from receiving funds  
35 paid pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act from Medicaid, creating a barrier to  
36 expansion of supportive housing for low-income older adults; and

37 WHEREAS, in 2016, 46 states and the District of Columbia used Medicaid waivers to  
38 provide some level of supportive assistance for individuals in assisted living; and

39 WHEREAS, options can be explored to use low-income housing tax credits with supportive  
40 housing criteria included in qualified allocation plan regulations; and

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42 WHEREAS, opportunities exist to expand affordable supportive housing through faith-based  
43 organizations; and

44 WHEREAS, options are available to set state funded service provider rates at appropriate  
45 levels to meet demands.

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

47 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
48 on Innovative Financial Options for Senior Living.

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

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

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

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

65 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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