

House Resolution 683

By: Representative Stephens of the 164th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on a Tax Deduction for Members of a Health Care
2 Sharing Organization (HCSO); and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, HCSOs are not insurance companies; and

4 WHEREAS, HCSOs' members contribute more than \$1 billion per year for one another's
5 health care costs; and

6 WHEREAS, under the federal Internal Revenue Code, employers who purchase health
7 insurance for their employees may deduct the cost as a business expense, while at the same
8 time it is a nontaxable fringe benefit to the employee; and

9 WHEREAS, the self-employed and employees who purchase their own health insurance
10 may, in most circumstances, also deduct that cost on their income tax returns; and

11 WHEREAS, like health insurance policy holders, members of HCSOs make payments that
12 go toward assisting fellow members with medical expenses; and

13 WHEREAS, similar to health insurance policy holders, in order to provide for extraordinary
14 medical expenses for their families, members of HCSOs come together to share expenses;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, due to the fact that HCSOs are not insurance companies and are not well
17 known, the tax code does not explicitly address their status; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia income tax code should be reformed so that members of HCSOs
19 are given equal treatment with those who purchase health insurance.

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

- 21 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
22 on a Tax Deduction for Members of a Health Care Sharing Organization (HCSO).
- 23 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
24 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
26 of the committee.
- 27 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
28 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
29 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 30 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
31 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
32 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
33 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
- 34 (5) **Allowances and funding.**
- 35 (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall
36 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
37 Georgia Annotated.
- 38 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
39 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
40 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
41 appropriated to the House of Representatives.
- 42 (6) **Report.**
- 43 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
44 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
45 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
46 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.
- 47 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
48 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
49 of this paragraph.
- 50 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
51 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
52 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
53 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.
- 54 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
55 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
56 thereof.
- 57 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.