

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 589:

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, the Georgia Maternal Mortality Review Committee has reviewed three years
9 of maternal death data; and
- 10 WHEREAS, continued review of maternal deaths is recommended to understand trends in
11 maternal deaths. Research performed by the Georgia Maternal Mortality Review Committee
12 suggests 60 percent of these deaths are preventable; and
- 13 WHEREAS, there is a need to develop strategies and institute systemic changes to decrease
14 and 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 seven members of the
19 House of Representatives, a minimum of two of whom shall be African American female
20 legislators, and two members of the Georgia Maternal Mortality Review Committee to
21 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall
22 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

30 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

31 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
32 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

33 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
34 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
35 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
36 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
37 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

38 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
39 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
40 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
41 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
42 employees.

43 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
44 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
45 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
46 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement
47 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the
48 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated
49 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

50 (6) **Report.**

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

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

58 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
59 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

60 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
61 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

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