

Senate Resolution 151

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Sickle Cell Anemia Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia is a lethal disease caused by a recessive gene in a carrier
3 parent; and
- 4 WHEREAS, children with sickle cell anemia may experience serious complications which
5 include fatigue, fever, difficulty breathing, excruciating pain, stroke, leg ulcers, and
6 premature death; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the disease causes damage to most organs including the spleen, kidney, and
8 liver, which also makes sickle cell anemia patients, especially young children, easily
9 overwhelmed by bacterial infections; and
- 10 WHEREAS, two carrier parents have a 25 percent chance of having a child with the disease;
11 and
- 12 WHEREAS, while African Americans have the highest incidence of sickle cell anemia in the
13 United States, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Indian, Greek, and Caucasian individuals may also
14 carry the sickle cell trait or have sickle cell anemia; and

15 WHEREAS, despite many attempted treatments for sickle cell anemia, there is currently no
16 universal cure for the disease; researchers are attempting to find various approaches to
17 prevent sickle cell episodes and the many complications of this disease; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of three states with the highest rate of individuals affected by the
19 disease (8,200), and the State of Georgia's Newborn Screening Program identifies
20 approximately 170 babies born yearly with a significant hemoglobinopathy; and

21 WHEREAS, there are 124 Georgia census tracts with significant sickle cell populations that
22 have been designated as medically underserved areas, and 90 census tracts have the
23 additional distinction of being designated as health professional shortage areas, thus making
24 even routine primary care challenging, particularly for adults with sickle cell anemia; and

25 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to determine the needs of the residents of this state with
26 respect to prevention and treatment of sickle cell anemia and to identify sources of state and
27 federal funding or private funding to address such needs.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

29 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Sickle Cell
30 Anemia Study Committee.

31 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
32 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
33 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

41 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
42 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
43 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
44 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
45 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
46 appropriated to the Senate.

47 (6) **Report.**

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

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

55 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
56 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
57 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
58 the Secretary of the Senate.

59 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
60 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

61 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.