

## House Resolution 1393

By: Representatives Myles of the 126<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>, Greene of the 154<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Rural Hospitals; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, far too many Georgians lack access to healthcare services; and
- 3 WHEREAS, hospitals in rural communities are needed to provide area residents with access  
4 to healthcare services; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the state of Georgia has one of the highest rates of rural hospital closures over  
6 the last ten years; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the number of hospitals in rural communities in this state has been declining for  
8 many years; and
- 9 WHEREAS, without at least one hospital in a rural community, area residents often must  
10 travel great distances to receive needed medical care; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the presence of hospitals, doctors, nurses, medical technicians, administrative  
12 personnel, and other professionals in a rural community helps that community to thrive; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia needs hospitals in rural communities to meet the needs of patients,  
14 particularly in obstetrical, cancer, mental health, surgical, emergency care, and other types  
15 of healthcare; and

16 WHEREAS, rural hospitals face an ongoing financial crisis; and

17 WHEREAS, rural hospitals have numerous needs that should be examined including but not  
18 limited to the need for more physicians and other medical professionals as well as greater  
19 access to telemedicine and high speed internet connectivity; and

20 WHEREAS, legislation addressing the needs of hospitals in rural communities should be  
21 recommended by a study committee and considered by the House of Representatives in the  
22 2027 legislative session.

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

24 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
25 on Rural Hospitals.

26 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of nine members to be  
27 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:

28 (A) Five members of the House of Representatives of whom at least three shall have  
29 active professional backgrounds in healthcare settings and at least two shall be from the  
30 minority party. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member  
31 of the committee as chairperson of the committee;

32 (B) One citizen representative who serves in an executive role in a rural hospital;

33 (C) One citizen representative who practices medicine as a full-time employee of a  
34 rural hospital;

35 (D) One citizen representative who does not practice medicine but provides other  
36 healthcare services in a rural hospital; and

37 (E) One citizen representative who has expertise in healthcare costs and the operation  
38 of hospitals in a rural setting.

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

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

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

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

49 (B) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
50 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
51 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
52 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
53 employees.

54 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
55 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
56 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
57 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

58 (6) **Report.**

59 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
60 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

61 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
62 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

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

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

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

73 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2026.