

House Resolution 1109

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Schofield of the 63rd, and Davis of the 87th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the urgent need for sentencing alternatives and treatment programs for
2 Georgians with serious mental illness; commending the General Assembly for advancing the
3 "Mental Health Sentencing and Treatment Alternatives Act"; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, thousands of Georgians incarcerated in prisons and jails live with serious
5 mental illness, too often without adequate treatment, leading to cycles of crisis, recidivism,
6 homelessness, and harm to families; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia has established mental health courts and in-custody treatment
8 requirements, but lacks a uniform statutory framework at the sentencing stage to ensure
9 access to comprehensive mental health alternatives; and

10 WHEREAS, untreated mental illness behind bars increases costs to taxpayers, strains
11 correctional systems, and undermines public safety; and

12 WHEREAS, other states, such as Washington, have adopted mental health sentencing
13 alternatives with proven outcomes in reducing recidivism and improving stability, but
14 Georgia can lead the nation with a more comprehensive model; and

15 WHEREAS, the "Mental Health Sentencing and Treatment Alternatives Act" would ensure
16 continuity of care from sentencing through release, leverage Medicaid and federal funds, and
17 build in transparency and oversight to protect public safety and fiscal responsibility.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body recognize and support the passage of the "Mental Health
20 Sentencing and Treatment Alternatives Act" as a landmark step in justice, public safety, and
21 humane treatment.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
24 Governor, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the
25 Department of Community Health, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and other
26 relevant stakeholders.