

House Resolution 304

By: Representatives Au of the 50th, Cooper of the 45th, Hawkins of the 27th, Stephens of the 164th, and Buckner of the 137th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Costs and Effects of Smoking; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, smoking leads to disease and disability and harms nearly every organ of the
4 body; and

5 WHEREAS, more than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, for every person who dies because of smoking, at least 30 people live with a
8 serious smoking related illness; and

9 WHEREAS, smoking causes cancer, heart disease, vascular disease, lung diseases, diabetes,
10 and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic
11 bronchitis. Smoking also increases risk for tuberculosis, certain eye diseases, and problems
12 of the immune system, including rheumatoid arthritis; and

13 WHEREAS, secondhand smoke exposure contributes to approximately 41,000 deaths among
14 nonsmoking adults and 400 deaths in infants each year. Secondhand smoke causes stroke,
15 lung cancer, coronary heart disease, and reproductive health complications in adults.
16 Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk for sudden infant death
17 syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, middle ear disease, more severe asthma,
18 respiratory symptoms, and slowed lung growth; and

19 WHEREAS, smoking related illness in the United States costs more than \$300 billion each
20 year, including more than \$225 billion for direct medical care for adults and more than \$156
21 billion in lost productivity, including \$5.6 billion in lost productivity due to secondhand
22 smoke exposure; and

23 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to examine the cost of smoking, including short-term and
24 long-term health care costs, the impact on Medicaid and Medicare, childhood health costs
25 resulting from secondhand smoke exposure, and the loss of worker productivity attributed
26 to smoking.

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

28 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
29 on the Costs and Effects of Smoking.

30 (2) **Members and officers.**

31 (A) The committee shall be composed of five members of the House of
32 Representatives.

33 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint all members of the
34 committee and shall designate one of such members as chairperson.

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

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

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

48 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

63 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.