

Senate Resolution 344

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Jones II of the 22nd, Jackson of the 41st, Parent of the 44th and Islam Parkes of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on a Single-payer Healthcare Program; and for other
2 purposes.

3

4 WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted by Congress
5 in 2010, fundamentally reforming the American healthcare system, by expanding Medicaid
6 to 138 percent of the federal poverty line and making various changes to the health insurance
7 industry; and

8 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has refused to implement Medicaid expansion as
9 contemplated by the ACA, leaving nearly 300,000 Georgians uninsured; and

10 WHEREAS, most other highly developed countries, including Australia, Canada, India,
11 Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom, have single-payer
12 healthcare systems of some kind; and

13 WHEREAS, opinion polls have shown that countries with single-payer healthcare systems
14 almost universally prefer their systems over an American-style private healthcare system;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, various proposals have been introduced in Congress to create a nation-wide
17 single-payer healthcare system, and many states, including California, Colorado, Hawaii, and
18 Vermont, have explored the creation of a single-payer healthcare system at the state level;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, studies have shown that the United States would save approximately half a
21 trillion dollars every year under a single-payer system, and that as many as 212,000 lives
22 could have been saved during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

23 WHEREAS, the implementation of a single-payer healthcare system in Georgia would
24 significantly improve healthcare outcomes in this state; and

25 WHEREAS, a study committee is needed to establish informed recommendations for the
26 implementation of a single-payer healthcare system.

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

28 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
29 on a Single-payer Healthcare Program.

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

31 (A) The committee shall be composed of the following members:

32 (i) Five members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate;

33 (ii) The commissioner of public health or his or her designee;

34 (iii) The commissioner of community health or his or her designee; and

35 (iv) The commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities or his or
36 her designee.

37 (B) The President of the Senate shall designate a legislative member of the committee
38 to be the chairperson of the committee.

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.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
47 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
48 Annotated. Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative
49 members, or who are state employees, shall receive no compensation for their services
50 on the committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
51 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are
52 reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees. The
53 allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
54 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
55 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
56 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of
57 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the expenses
58 of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their
59 respective agencies.

60 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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