

House Resolution 753

By: Representatives Donatucci of the 105th, Hagan of the 156th, Camp of the 135th, and Clifton of the 131st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Improving Access to Internal Medicine in Rural
2 Areas; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, 75 percent of Georgia counties are considered rural; and

4 WHEREAS, rural Georgian communities often lack access to quality health care; and

5 WHEREAS, as of 2022, one in ten Georgians live in a county with no more than a single
6 physician; and

7 WHEREAS, recent studies have reported that approximately 40 counties, making up roughly
8 one-quarter of Georgia's total county count, have no internal medicine physician; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia ranked fortieth among all states in the ratio of active patient care
10 physicians to the population, with one physician for every 480 people; and

11 WHEREAS, as of last year, 142 of Georgia's 159 counties are healthcare professional
12 shortage areas, meaning there are 3,500 or more patients for every one provider; and

13 WHEREAS, rural communities within the state are challenged with recruiting and retaining
14 healthcare providers and staff; and

15 WHEREAS, transportation is not always accessible in rural areas of the state; and

16 WHEREAS, three out of four counties in Georgia are considered health transportation
17 shortage areas; and

18 WHEREAS, health transportation shortage areas experience increased levels of
19 transportation barriers to healthcare, such as public transportation availability and high
20 household poverty rates; and

21 WHEREAS, a study committee is needed to thoroughly evaluate the most prudent and
22 cost-effective ways to increase access to internal medicine in rural Georgian communities,
23 with particular focus on those rural communities experiencing health transportation
24 shortages.

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

26 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
27 on Improving Access to Internal Medicine in Rural Areas.

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

29 (A) The committee shall be composed of eight members.

30 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the
31 House of Representatives.

32 (C) The Speaker shall also appoint an additional three nonlegislative members of the
33 committee who are licensed healthcare providers in this state and who are familiar with
34 the needs of rural Georgia.

35 (D) The Speaker shall also designate a legislative member of the committee as
36 chairperson of the committee.

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

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

44 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

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

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

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

56 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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