

## House Resolution 816

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Werkheiser of the 157<sup>th</sup>, Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 45<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on an At-Risk Populations Abuse Registry; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, individuals who have been substantiated to have committed abuse, neglect, or  
4 exploitation of at-risk populations, including individuals with disabilities and older adults,  
5 should be properly documented to prevent future harm; and

6 WHEREAS, other states, including Tennessee, have established registries to track  
7 individuals who have engaged in such conduct; and

8 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study is necessary to determine the feasibility, structure, and  
9 implementation of a similar registry in Georgia, including considerations of due process,  
10 enforcement, and interagency coordination; and

11 WHEREAS, the purpose of this Resolution is to establish a study committee to examine and  
12 make recommendations on the establishment of a substantiated abuse registry for at-risk  
13 populations; and

14 WHEREAS, there is a need for a comprehensive review of systems of care for people with  
15 disabilities.

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

17 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
18 on an At-Risk Populations Abuse Registry.

19 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 11 members to be  
20 appointed as follows:

21 (A) Five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of  
22 the House of Representatives, one of whom the Speaker shall designate as chairperson  
23 of the committee; and

24 (B) Six nonlegislative members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
25 Representatives as follows:

26 (i) The commissioner of public health or his or her designee;

27 (ii) A citizen representative from a state-wide protection and advocacy organization  
28 for individuals with disabilities;

29 (iii) A citizen representative from a state-wide elder rights advocacy organization;

30 (iv) A citizen representative from a law enforcement agency with experience  
31 investigating abuse cases;

32 (v) A citizen representative from the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of  
33 Georgia; and

34 (vi) A citizen representative who is either a person with intellectual and  
35 developmental disabilities or a person in a care facility.

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

- 40 (A) Conduct a comprehensive review of Tennessee's substantiated abuse registry and  
41 similar models in other states;
- 42 (B) Assess the feasibility of implementing a registry in Georgia, including potential  
43 costs, administrative procedures, and due process protections;
- 44 (C) Examine the potential impact of such a registry on employment and hiring  
45 practices in health and caregiving professions;
- 46 (D) Consider appropriate mechanisms for appeals and removal from the registry;
- 47 (E) Identify necessary legislative and regulatory changes to establish and maintain such  
48 a registry; and
- 49 (F) Solicit input from relevant stakeholders, including advocacy organizations, care  
50 providers, law enforcement, and the public on how to improve service delivery for  
51 people with disabilities.

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

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

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

59 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
60 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the  
61 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the  
62 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they  
63 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

64 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
65 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
66 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia

67 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
68 employees.

69 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
70 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
71 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
72 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement  
73 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the  
74 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated  
75 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

76 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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