

House Resolution 847

By: Representatives Taylor of the 173rd, Hatchett of the 155th, Dempsey of the 13th, Parrish of the 158th, Stephens of the 164th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Evaluating Funding for Public Health; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's health security and financial well-being depend on a growing, fully
4 funded state and local public health system; and

5 WHEREAS, as the former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop once said, "Health care
6 is vital to all us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time"; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, increases in public health
8 spending have been shown to reduce preventable deaths, and healthier communities support
9 stronger economies; and

10 WHEREAS, according to such Institute, public health has historically been underfunded,
11 specifically when compared with healthcare. In fact, less than one in every ten state general
12 fund dollars spent on Georgia's three primary health agencies goes to the Department of
13 Public Health; and

14 WHEREAS, additional support may be necessary to shape a state public health budget that
15 contributes to a sustainable public health infrastructure; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study how Georgia's public health system is structured
17 and funded and to evaluate what services such system currently provides to determine
18 whether action by the state is necessary.

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

20 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
21 on Evaluating Funding for Public Health.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
23 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
25 of the committee.

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

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

33 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

36 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
37 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
38 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds

39 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement
40 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the
41 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated
42 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

43 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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