

The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to HR 753:

A RESOLUTION

SECTION 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

53 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
54 of the committee for more than three 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 House of Representatives.

57 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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

73 **SECTION 2.**

74 Creating the House Study Committee on the Affordability and Accessibility of Georgia's
75 Legitimation Process; and for other purposes.

76 WHEREAS, in Georgia, a biological father who is not married to the mother of his child at
77 the time of such child's birth must file a separate legal petition in order to legitimate the child
78 and obtain legal rights as a parent; and

79 WHEREAS, the benefit of having two parents responsible for a child is known to have a
80 positive effect on a child's welfare; and

81 WHEREAS, in Georgia, biological fathers who wish to obtain parental rights to their
82 children are discouraged from doing so, often due to a lack of resources or awareness of the
83 costs associated with legitimation; and

84 WHEREAS, it is worth considering whether the legitimation process in Georgia may be
85 improved in a way that yields it more affordable and accessible, particularly for those
86 biological fathers with limited financial resources.

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

88 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
89 on the Affordability and Accessibility of Georgia's Legitimation Process.

90 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
91 House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate
92 a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

100 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
101 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
102 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
103 member of the committee for more than three days unless additional days are authorized.
104 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
105 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

106 (6) **Report.**

107 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
108 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

109 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
 110 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

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

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

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

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

122 **SECTION 3.**

123 Creating the House Study Committee on Gaming in the State of Georgia; and for other
 124 purposes.

125 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has long considered multiple legislative
 126 measures to permit the voters of Georgia to decide whether or not to allow the state and its
 127 counties to decide whether or not to authorize or opt in to land based destination resort
 128 casinos, pari-mutuel and fixed-odds horse racing, and whether or not to permit digital, retail,
 129 and on-premise sports betting; and

130 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to determine how legalization of gaming in this
 131 state if approved by the people and enabled by the General Assembly would contribute to the
 132 economy and workforce development of this state as to revenue expectations and quality of

133 jobs being available when weighed against what social and societal ills may come to Georgia
134 if gaming is approved by the citizens of this state; and

135 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to determine if the legalization of gaming would
136 also increase tax revenues for Georgia and aid in meeting the budgetary demands of
137 government; and

138 WHEREAS, many of our citizens travel substantial distances to engage in gaming activities
139 and enjoy the resort atmosphere in states such as Nevada, Mississippi, Alabama, North
140 Carolina, and Massachusetts; and

141 WHEREAS, if gaming was expanded in this state, the money spent in other states might
142 remain with the industries and tax revenues of this state; and

143 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has a large agricultural industry that contributes
144 significantly to the economy of this state and a portion of that industry is involved with the
145 breeding, raising, and training of horses; and

146 WHEREAS, the legalization of horse racing and pari-mutuel betting in this state could aid
147 in the further development and expansion of Georgia's horse breeding and raising industry
148 and foster its contribution to the economy of this state; and

149 WHEREAS, the financial implications for the state of such potential legalization as well as
150 previously considered measures by the General Assembly to improve Georgia's economy
151 deserve to be further considered and studied along with the social, fiscal, and economic
152 impacts and the financial viability of such endeavors.

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

154 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
155 on Gaming in the State of Georgia.

156 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members. The
157 members of the committee shall be the chairpersons of the House Committee on Ways
158 and Means, the House Committee on Regulated Industries, and the House Committee on
159 Economic Development and four other members of the House of Representatives
160 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
161 designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to serve as chairperson of the
162 committee.

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

166 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
167 shall hold at least four public hearings at various locations throughout this state and at
168 least one meeting to discuss and finalize findings. Such hearings and meeting shall be
169 conducted at such places and at such times as deemed necessary or convenient to enable
170 the committee to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
171 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

175 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
176 of the committee for more than three days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
177 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
178 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

179 (6) **Report.** The committee shall adopt specific findings or recommendations that
180 include proposed legislation, and the chairperson shall file a report of the same prior to
181 the date of abolishment specified in this resolution.

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