

House Resolution 1473

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63rd, Hawkins of the 27th, Erwin of the 32nd, Scott of the 76th, and Davis of the 87th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Lupus; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that affects multiple systems in the body,
3 often resulting in severe pain, fatigue, organ damage, and life-altering complications; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the unpredictable and debilitating nature of lupus frequently impairs individuals'
5 ability to maintain consistent employment, making disability benefits a critical safety net;
6 and
- 7 WHEREAS, the current Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security
8 Income approval processes often involve significant delays, exacerbating the financial and
9 emotional strain on individuals living with lupus; and
- 10 WHEREAS, individuals with lupus face unique challenges in documenting their condition
11 due to the disease's complexity, variability, and often subjective symptoms, contributing to
12 high rates of initial claim denials and prolonged appeals processes; and

13 WHEREAS, timely access to disability benefits is essential for individuals with lupus to
14 afford medical care, medications, and basic living expenses necessary for their survival and
15 well-being; and

16 WHEREAS, the science surrounding lupus and its impact on society is advancing and
17 urgently needs to be better understood.

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

19 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
20 on Lupus.

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

22 (A) The committee shall be composed of seven members.

23 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
24 House of Representatives who shall be members of the House Committee on Health.

25 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also appoint three nonlegislative
26 members of the committee as follows:

27 (i) The commissioner of public health or his or her designee.

28 (ii) A representative of the Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness or
29 such other person with expertise in the study of lupus; and

30 (iii) A representative of the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America or
31 such other person with expertise in the study of lupus.

32 (D) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a legislative member
33 of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

61 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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

76 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2026.