

House Resolution 1123

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15th, Cooper of the 45th, Hilton of the 48th, and Oliver of the 82nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, known as the Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law, House Bill 965 was passed
4 by overwhelming majorities in the state House of Representatives and Senate and signed into
5 law on April 24, 2014, by then-Governor Nathan Deal; and

6 WHEREAS, the law provides that anyone seeking medical assistance for themselves or
7 someone else for a drug overdose cannot be charged with a drug violation if the evidence of
8 the drug violation results "solely from seeking such medical assistance"; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislation further establishes limited immunity from certain underage
10 drinking offenses for minors who seek help in the event of an alcohol overdose; and

11 WHEREAS, overdose deaths result from a variety of substances, including prescription
12 painkillers, heroin, methamphetamine, designer drugs, and alcohol; and

13 WHEREAS, under the law, physicians licensed to practice medicine in Georgia are allowed
14 to prescribe naloxone, an opioid antagonist developed to counter the effects of opiate
15 overdose, on a standing order to at-risk patients as well as those who help such patients; and

16 WHEREAS, trained first responders such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS
17 personnel are additionally authorized to administer the medication, and limited civil and
18 criminal immunity exists for laypeople who provide it to a person suspected of suffering
19 from an opioid overdose; and

20 WHEREAS, naloxone is furthermore available now as an over-the-counter drug, increasing
21 access to the drug and avoiding the need for a prescription; and

22 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this important piece of legislation be
23 appropriately honored; moreover, it is important to remember that the issues flowing from
24 illicit narcotics overdose have changed, yet the need to maintain awareness of overdose
25 prevention is more important than ever.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize the 10th anniversary of the Georgia 9-1-1 Medical
28 Amnesty Law for its impact on the citizens of this state, particularly the family and friends
29 of those attempting to break the cycle of addiction; celebrate the courage and dedication of
30 those involved in advocating for its passage and the much-needed awareness efforts that
31 followed; and commend the medical professionals, first responders, and trained individuals
32 who work to aid those suffering from opioid overdoses.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
35 public and the press.