House Resolution 1606

By: Representative Teasley of the 37<sup>th</sup>

A RESOLUTION

1   Creating the House Study Committee on the Affordability of Burial Services; and for other

2   purposes.

3   WHEREAS, the time following the loss of a loved one is one of the most difficult periods

4   in an individual's life; and

5   WHEREAS, it has been a decade since the General Assembly last reviewed state laws

6   governing cemetery practices and pricing; and

7   WHEREAS, with the cost of funerals, burial sites, cemetery plots, and vaults escalating,

8   cremation has become a growing trend for honoring loved ones after they have passed on;

9   and

10   WHEREAS, it is important that consumers understand their rights when purchasing burial

11   plots, vaults, and other burial and funeral merchandise and that the contracts used and the

12   associated fees are easy to comprehend; and

13   WHEREAS, consumers may lack information about how cremations are performed as well

14   as what laws govern burial plot location and usage of the associated lands; and

15   WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to study the current laws with a view toward

16   decreasing the potential for monopolistic practices and increasing opportunities for

17   competition; and

18   WHEREAS, there are many service areas relating to the loss of a loved one that need to be

19   examined to ensure that the best interests of the citizens of this state are being served.

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

21      (1) **Creation of House study committee.**  There is created the House Study Committee

22      on the Affordability of Burial Services.

23      (2) **Members and officers.**  The committee shall be composed of five members of the

24      House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of

25      Representatives.  The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson

26      of the committee.

27      (3) **Powers and duties.**  The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,

28      issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or

29      legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

30      (4) **Meetings.**  The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.  The committee

31      may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

32      convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and

33      accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

34      (5) **Allowances and funding.**  The legislative members of the committee shall receive

35      the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia

36      Annotated.  The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any

37      member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.

38      Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds

39      appropriated to the House of Representatives.

40      (6) **Report.**

41        (A)  In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that

42        include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

43        same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to

44        subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

45        (B)  In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for

46        proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)

47        of this paragraph.

48        (C)  No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of

49        abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

50        A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with

51        the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

52        (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the

53        House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu

54        thereof.

55      (7) **Abolishment.**  The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.