

## House Resolution 498

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Shannon of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Stephenson of the 90<sup>th</sup>, Henson of the 86<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Insurance Review of Erectile Dysfunction; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the effects of Viagra can cause a side effect called priapism, which is when an  
4 erection has the ability to last for a long period of time and become very painful; and

5 WHEREAS, recreational use of erectile dysfunction medication (Viagra) has been linked to  
6 "increased sexual behaviors, increased risk for sexually transmitted infections, including  
7 incident HIV infection," according to a 2011 study conducted by The University of Texas  
8 at Austin; and

9 WHEREAS, Viagra is a PDE5 inhibitor which in turn can cause vasodilation (low blood  
10 pressure), having the ability to decrease blood flow to the optic nerve; and

11 WHEREAS, sildenafil (Viagra) is one of the most widely used drugs in the world. It can  
12 cause psychological addiction and dependent behavior due to the fact that men may seek it  
13 to overcome performance anxiety issues. Also, the influence of pornography may pressure  
14 men to emulate the performances seen in porn films; and

15 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects on the user, such as emotional,  
16 mental, and medical illnesses, shaping deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming or  
17 maintaining intimate relationships, brain development and functioning, problematic or  
18 harmful sexual behaviors, and addiction; and

19 WHEREAS, withdrawal symptoms from Viagra can potentially be HIV or hepatitis (under  
20 the impact of Viagra, people typically have unprotected sex which can lead to exposure to  
21 those diseases), depression, vision problems, and sensorineural hearing loss, causing damage  
22 to inner ear structures and possibly leading to permanent hearing loss. The peer reviewed  
23 scholarly journal, *The Laryngoscope*, reported that in "Forty-seven cases of sensorineural

24 hearing loss with a temporal association with PDE-5 inhibitor[s]...sildenafil accounted for  
25 50% of cases"; and

26 WHEREAS, several major lifestyle factors have been identified as contributing to the onset  
27 of erectile dysfunction, such as smoking, alcohol consumption, and obesity; and

28 WHEREAS, psychological factors have been shown to have strong correlation to the onset  
29 of erectile dysfunction; and

30 WHEREAS, the cessation of smoking has been demonstrated to resolve erectile dysfunction  
31 in roughly 25 percent of patients; and

32 WHEREAS, heavy alcohol consumption is understood to be a significant contributing factor  
33 to the need for erectile dysfunction treatment; and

34 WHEREAS, these lifestyle factors are the responsibility of the individual and not the state  
35 health benefit plan; and

36 WHEREAS, erectile dysfunction treatment places a burden upon Georgia's taxpayers for a  
37 medically unnecessary treatment.

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

39 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
40 on the Insurance Review of Erectile Dysfunction.

41 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six female members  
42 of the House of Representatives. Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
43 House of Representatives, two members shall be appointed by the chairperson of the  
44 House Committee on Insurance, one member shall be appointed by the Majority Leader,  
45 and one member shall be appointed by the Minority Leader. The Speaker shall designate  
46 a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

55       (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall  
56       receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of  
57       Georgia Annotated.

58       (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
59       of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
60       necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
61       appropriated to the House of Representatives.

62       (6) **Report.**

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

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

70       (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
71       abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

72       A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
73       the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

77       (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.