

## House Resolution 554

By: Representatives Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>, and Kendrick of the 93<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Men's Right to Know; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the effects of Viagra can cause a side effect called priapism, which is when an  
3 erection has the ability to last for a long period of time and become very painful; and
- 4 WHEREAS, recreational use of erectile dysfunction medication (Viagra) has been linked to  
5 "increased sexual behaviors, increased risk for sexually transmitted infections, including  
6 incident HIV infection," according to a 2011 study conducted by The University of Texas  
7 at Austin; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Viagra is a PDE5 inhibitor which in turn can cause vasodilation (low blood  
9 pressure), having the ability to decrease blood flow to the optic nerve; and
- 10 WHEREAS, sildenafil (Viagra) is one of the most widely used drugs in the world. It can  
11 cause psychological addiction and dependent behavior due to the fact that men may seek it  
12 to overcome performance anxiety issues. Also, the influence of pornography may pressure  
13 men to emulate the performances seen in porn films; and
- 14 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects on the user, such as emotional,  
15 mental, and medical illnesses, shaping deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming or  
16 maintaining intimate relationships, brain development and functioning, problematic or  
17 harmful sexual behaviors, and addiction; and
- 18 WHEREAS, withdrawal symptoms from Viagra can potentially be HIV or hepatitis (under  
19 the impact of Viagra, people typically have unprotected sex which can lead to exposure to  
20 those diseases), depression, vision problems, and sensorineural hearing loss, causing damage  
21 to inner ear structures and possibly leading to permanent hearing loss. The peer reviewed  
22 scholarly journal, *The Laryngoscope*, reported that in "Forty-seven cases of sensorineural

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

25 WHEREAS, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among males.  
26 Yearly, an average of 760 Georgia males die from prostate cancer. Mortality rates among  
27 black males are nearly three times higher than rates among white males; and

28 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society also recommends that the prostate-specific  
29 antigen test and a digital rectal examination be offered annually, beginning at age 50, to men  
30 who have a life expectancy of at least ten years. Men at high risk—African American men  
31 and men with one or more first-degree relatives diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early  
32 age—should begin testing at age 45.

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

34 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
35 on Men's Right to Know.

36 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six female members  
37 of the House of Representatives. Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
38 House of Representatives, two members shall be appointed by the chairperson of the  
39 House Committee on Health and Human Services, one member shall be appointed by the  
40 Majority Leader, and one member shall be appointed by the Minority Leader. The  
41 Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

53 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
54 of the committee for more than five 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, 2019.