

Senate Resolution 1056

By: Senator Rhett of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Premium Assistance Program; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, premium assistance is an alternative to the expansion of Medicaid that assists
4 individuals with purchasing coverage through private group health plans; and

5 WHEREAS, this option will provide much needed health insurance coverage for a portion
6 of the population that has an income too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to qualify
7 for subsidies provided by the federal government; and

8 WHEREAS, this alternative to Medicaid expansion increases private health care options and
9 decreases the cost of government operated programs; and

10 WHEREAS, this option has been successfully utilized by other states that have found that
11 it improves access to quality health care, attracts insurance carriers, enhances competition
12 in the insurance marketplace, promotes individually owned health insurance, strengthens
13 personal responsibility, reduces the size of the state administered Medicaid program, and
14 discourages overuse, among other benefits; and

15 WHEREAS, the premium assistance program which utilizes federal Medicaid funds to
16 purchase private coverage and requires individuals who wish to participate to contribute to
17 their premiums warrants further consideration and study.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

19 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
20 on the Premium Assistance Program.

21 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the
22 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
23 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

(5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

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

(6) **Report.**

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

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

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

(D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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