

House Resolution 1537

By: Representative Cooper of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Nursing Home Quality Assessment; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services established a
4 Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers, their families, and caregivers compare
5 nursing homes; and

6 WHEREAS, the Five-Star Quality Rating System includes a composite rating based on three
7 components: a health inspections rating based on outcomes from state health inspections, a
8 staffing rating based on nursing home staffing levels, and a quality measures rating based on
9 resident-level quality measures; and

10 WHEREAS, as the Five-Star Quality Rating System is based on a bell-curve, the ratings
11 could be considered skewed and do not show the whole picture; and

12 WHEREAS, no rating system can address all of the important considerations that go into a
13 decision about which nursing home may be best for a particular person, including proximity
14 to family and depth of services offered, and consumers may benefit from access to other
15 sources of information for nursing homes, including state and local agencies, organizations,
16 or advocacy groups, and from on-site visits; and

17 WHEREAS, it is indisputable that one of the primary concerns in selecting a nursing home
18 is the evaluation of measures to ensure patient safety; and

19 WHEREAS, to enhance patient safety, the use of electronic monitoring devices in patient
20 rooms in nursing homes should be considered while still maintaining the privacy of the
21 residents and staff; and

22 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the state to undertake a review of:

- 23 (1) Existing ratings systems for nursing homes, including the CMS Five-Star Quality
24 Rating System and other existing measures, to determine whether the establishment of
25 a state level rating system would be advantageous and useful to its citizens; and
26 (2) Existing safeguards in place to ensure patient safety in nursing homes and whether
27 any legislative impediments exist to implement further safety measures, including
28 placement of electronic monitoring devices in patient rooms.

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

- 30 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
31 on Nursing Home Quality Assessment.
- 32 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
33 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
34 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
35 of the committee.
- 36 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
37 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
38 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 39 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
40 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
41 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
42 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
- 43 (5) **Allowances and funding.** Members of the committee who are members of the
44 General Assembly shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of
45 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution
46 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than three days unless
47 additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
48 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.
- 49 (6) **Report.**
- 50 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
51 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
52 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
53 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.
- 54 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
55 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
56 of this paragraph.
- 57 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
58 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

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

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

64 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.