

House Resolution 566

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48th, Cooper of the 45th, Stephens of the 164th, Seabaugh of the 34th, and Hatchett of the 155th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Georgia's COVID-19 Response and Future
2 Pandemic Preparedness; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, more than 2,347,870 Georgians were infected by SARS-CoV-2 resulting in
4 more than 35,068 deaths, 138,298 hospitalizations, and 17,648 intensive care unit
5 admissions; and

6 WHEREAS, the National Bureau of Economic Research has made the following findings:

7 (1) Georgia ranked nineteenth among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in its
8 COVID-19 response;

9 (2) Georgia had the eighth lowest increase in industry adjusted unemployment as a result
10 of the COVID-19 pandemic;

11 (3) Georgia had the thirty-fifth lowest decrease in industry adjusted gross domestic
12 product (GDP) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

13 (4) Georgia ranked thirteenth in cumulative share of in-person instruction during the
14 COVID-19 pandemic;

15 (5) Georgia ranked twenty-eighth in age adjusted and metabolic health adjusted
16 COVID-19 deaths per 100,000; and

17 (6) Georgia ranked thirty-sixth in all-cause excess deaths per 100,000 during the
18 COVID-19 pandemic; and

19 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented government intervention
20 into the economy and individual freedoms through business lockdowns, mask and vaccine
21 mandates, and school closures that demands post-factum analysis for efficacy; and

22 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic stress tested Georgia's emergency management
23 response, emergency stockpiles, and medical countermeasures, making a holistic review of
24 the state's public health capabilities necessary.

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

26 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
27 on Georgia's COVID-19 Response and Future Pandemic Preparedness.

28 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of three members of the
29 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives, one of whom shall be the chairperson of the House Committee on Public
31 Health. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional two nonlegislative members of the
32 committee. The Speaker shall designate a member from the House of Representatives
33 of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

41 **(5) Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

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

44 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
45 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
46 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
47 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
48 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

49 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
50 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
51 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
52 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
53 employees.

54 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
55 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
56 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
57 appropriated to the House of Representatives, except that funds for the reimbursement
58 of expenses of state officials other than legislative members and for the reimbursement
59 of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
60 available to their respective agencies.

61 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

76 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.