

Senate Resolution 281

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Gooch of the 51st, Hatchett of the 50th and Burke of the 11th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Violence Against Health Care Workers; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has multiple hospitals staffed with extraordinary health care
4 professionals and personnel throughout this state; and

5 WHEREAS, workplace violence is of grave concern to all citizens, and over 80 percent of
6 all hospitals' staff have been assaulted at least once in their career; and

7 WHEREAS, the number of assaults increased greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

8 WHEREAS, violence against health care workers is a significant problem and has a direct
9 relationship to experiences of negative stress, decreased work productivity, recovery time-off
10 of the job, decreased quality of patient care, health care workers leaving the health care field
11 to pursue other opportunities, and exacerbation of the shortage of health care professionals;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, workplace violence results in increased costs and diversion of resources for
14 increased hospital security and dedicated police force personnel; and

15 WHEREAS, a study of the causes and the solutions to the ever-increasing violence
16 committed against health care workers needs to be undertaken.

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

18 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
19 on Violence Against Health Care Workers.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of nine members, five
21 members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and four members
22 to be appointed by the Governor. The President of the Senate shall designate one of the
23 appointees from the Senate as chairperson. The Governor's appointees shall include one
24 person licensed as a medical doctor in Georgia, one person licensed as a registered nurse
25 in Georgia, and one lay person.

26 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
27 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
28 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. All agencies of the state
29 are directed to provide the committee with such assistance as the committee shall require
30 in performing its assigned duties.

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

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

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

38 (B) Any members of the committee who are state officials or employees, other than
39 legislative members, shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
40 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they

41 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees. The
42 funds necessary for the reimbursement of expenses of state officials, other than
43 legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or
44 otherwise available in their respective departments.

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

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

54 **(6) Report.**

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

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

62 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
63 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
64 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
65 the Secretary of the Senate. Any member of the committee may file a minority report
66 that shall accompany the majority report.

- 67 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
68 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 69 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.