

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO THE DEKALB COUNTY DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THAT A STUDY COMMITTEE BE CONVENED TO REVIEW PUBLIC HEALTH TAXATION REFORM

WHEREAS, Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities, achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention, and detecting, preventing, and responding to infectious diseases for entire populations¹; and

WHEREAS, roughly six (6) percent of the state's health-related spending is dedicated to public health²; and

WHEREAS, to meet the ever-evolving challenges brought about by systemic health issues, as well as the effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on communities throughout the state, more funding is needed from the State in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, communities such as Jackson County, Missouri have passed measures in recent years that expands a county's ability to address public health needs, such as mental health services, through sales tax collections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of DeKalb County, Georgia that the following is requested:

1. The DeKalb County Delegation of the General Assembly convene a study committee to review public health taxation reform;
2. The committee be convened to review any county which has one (1) or more service areas within its boundaries or which is within the boundaries of a service area, review means by which the county may levy and collect a tax to accomplish any of the following purposes:
 - a. Review feasibility of optional sales tax levied by any county for the purpose of funding the building of public health centers, funding for public health services, and/or other infrastructure related to public health;
 - b. This tax would provide necessary funds from already collected tax revenues to be used for public health purposes as necessary;
 - c. Includes provision of necessary funds to establish, supplement, operate, and/or maintain community mental health centers, mental health clinics, or any comprehensive mental health services;

¹ <https://www.cdcfoundation.org/what-public-health>

² <https://gbpi.org/make-public-health-a-priority-in-georgia-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond/>

November 23, 2021

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2021.

STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2021.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney