

**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 populations<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, roughly six (6) percent of the state’s health-related spending is dedicated to public health<sup>2</sup>; 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;

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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

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

November 23, 2021

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

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**  
Clerk

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**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**  
County Attorney