

House Resolution 520

By: Representatives Cooper of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Evans of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 18<sup>th</sup>,  
and Hutchinson of the 106<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging members of the Employment First Georgia Council to develop recommendations on  
2 how best to transition current use of sub-minimum wage practices to competitive integrated  
3 employment options for people with developmental disabilities; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 831, "Georgia's Employment  
5 First Act," during the 2018 legislative session; and

6 WHEREAS, Governor Nathan Deal signed "Georgia's Employment First Act" into law on  
7 May 8, 2018; and

8 WHEREAS, "Georgia's Employment First Act" created the Employment First Georgia  
9 Council, whose purpose is to "advise the Governor, General Assembly, and state agencies  
10 as to the adoption and integration of a policy that recognizes that competitive integrated  
11 employment, including self-employment, is the first and preferred option of all state funded  
12 services provided to working age individuals with disabilities"; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2018, 16,671 Georgians with developmental disabilities were in day  
14 services/employment services while only 13 percent, or 2,101, were in competitive integrated  
15 employment; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2018, Georgia spent \$169,315,922 in state and federal spending on day  
17 services/employment services, using only 5.4 percent, or \$9,185,313, to support Georgians  
18 with developmental disabilities in competitive integrated employment; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2017, nearly 2,389 Georgians with developmental disabilities spent time  
20 throughout the week at sheltered workshops, where they are paid less than minimum wage  
21 for the work they perform; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2017, Georgia spent \$132,206 for sheltered workshops and other non-work  
23 facility based services; and

24 WHEREAS, there is an effort throughout the United States supported by the United States  
25 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to end sub-minimum wages for individuals and  
26 to recognize that employment paid at the fair market value should be the first option for  
27 individuals with developmental disabilities.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body urge the Employment First Georgia Council to hold public  
30 hearings, study, and construct a strategic plan to present to the General Assembly before  
31 December 31, 2023, regarding how Georgia can eliminate the use of sub-minimum wages  
32 and increase competitive integrated employment options for its citizens with developmental  
33 disabilities.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
36 public and the press.