

House Resolution 665

By: Representatives Hugley of the 136th, Smyre of the 135th, and Mitchell of the 88th

A RESOLUTION

1 Compensating Ashley Jordan f/k/a Ashley Debelbot; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, on June 1, 2008, McKenzy Debelbot a/k/a Mackenzie Debelbot a/k/a
3 MacKenzie Debelbot a/k/a Mackenze Debelbot a/k/a McKenzie Debelbot, born
4 May 29, 2008, passed away at Martin Army Hospital in Fort Benning, Georgia, after her
5 parents noticed a bump on the infant's forehead; and

6 WHEREAS, the Columbus Police Department conducted an investigation and determined
7 that the cause of death was homicide due to blunt force trauma; and

8 WHEREAS, on October 29, 2009, Ashley Jordan f/k/a Ashley Debelbot was convicted of
9 malice murder, felony murder, and child abuse and was sentenced to life in prison; and

10 WHEREAS, on February 28, 2020, the Georgia Supreme Court vacated these convictions;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Ashley Jordan f/k/a Ashley Debelbot was released from prison in July, 2020,
13 and on April 13, 2021, all charges were dismissed; and

14 WHEREAS, Mark Jones, District Attorney for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, stated in
15 court at the time that the charges were dismissed that there was "mounting medical evidence
16 that says the child was born this way" and apologized to Ashley Jordan f/k/a Ashley
17 Debelbot; and

18 WHEREAS, Ashley Jordan f/k/a Ashley Debelbot has suffered loss of liberty, personal
19 injury, lost wages, injury to reputation, emotional distress, and other damages as a result of
20 her incarceration; and

21 WHEREAS, the conviction, incarceration, and subsequent loss of liberty and other damages
22 suffered by Ashley Jordan f/k/a Ashley Debelbot occurred through no fault or negligence on
23 her part, and it is only fitting and proper that she be compensated for her losses.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 GEORGIA that the Department of Administrative Services is authorized and directed to pay
26 the sum of \$840,000.00 to Ashley Jordan f/k/a Ashley Debelbot as compensation as provided
27 above. Said sum shall be paid from funds appropriated to or available to the Department of
28 Administrative Services and shall be in full and complete satisfaction of all claims against
29 the state arising out of said occurrence and shall be paid subject to the provisions of this
30 resolution. Said sum shall be paid in the form of an annuity in equal monthly installments
31 over a 20 year period of time beginning in 2022. Upon the death of Ashley Jordan f/k/a
32 Ashley Debelbot, all payments and all obligations of the state with respect to any and all
33 future payments with respect to the annuity shall continue to be made to her estate or heirs.