

Senate Resolution 144

By: Senators Esteves of the 6th, Dixon of the 45th, Halpern of the 39th, Parent of the 42nd,
Still of the 48th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Expanding Early Childhood Education Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has shown and continues to show a commitment to early childhood
4 education; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia's pre-kindergarten early childhood education program currently begins
6 at age four; and

7 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control considers preschoolers to be between the ages
8 of three and five; and

9 WHEREAS, the inclusion of three-year-olds in the state's pre-kindergarten early childhood
10 education program deserves thorough and serious consideration; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia's existing pre-kindergarten early childhood education program should
12 always be open to improvement, including reduction of class size and new capital projects
13 in support of the program; and

14 WHEREAS, funds of the Georgia Lottery are intended to further the education of the youth
15 of this state; and

16 WHEREAS, the prospect of utilizing lottery funds for the purposes described above deserves
17 thorough and serious consideration.

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

19 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Expanding Early
20 Childhood Education Study Committee.

21 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members
22 consisting of three members of the Senate to be appointed by the majority leader of the
23 Senate, three members of the Senate to be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,
24 and the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth, who shall serve
25 as chairperson of the committee.

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.

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

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

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

36 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
37 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds

38 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
39 appropriated to the Senate.

40 **(6) Report.**

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

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

48 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
49 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
50 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
51 the Secretary of the Senate.

52 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
53 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

54 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.