

Senate Resolution 282

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Gooch of the 51st and Hatchett of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Foster Care and Adoption; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly recognizes the need to examine current policies
3 and regulations addressing the conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to the safety
4 and welfare of Georgia's children; and
- 5 WHEREAS, amongst its responsibilities, the General Assembly has the duty to review
6 current guidelines and processes related to improving foster care and adoption processes; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the current state of foster care and adoption processes in this state could benefit
8 from revising and streamlining such processes and to that end the current funding barriers,
9 fee structures, and requirements for public and private adoptions and the care of Georgia's
10 foster children should be examined.
- 11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:
- 12 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
13 on Foster Care and Adoption;
- 14 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of nine members as
15 follows:

16 (A) The chairperson of the Senate Children and Families Committee who shall serve
17 as chairperson of the study committee;

18 (B) The vice chairperson of the Senate Children and Families Committee who shall
19 serve as vice chairperson of the study committee;

20 (C) Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

21 (D) One citizen representative who specializes in providing foster care services;

22 (E) One citizen representative who specializes in adoption care services; and

23 (F) One practicing attorney specializing in the areas of adoption and child welfare.

24 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
25 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
26 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

31 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

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

34 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
35 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
36 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
37 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
38 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

39 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
40 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
41 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia

42 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
43 employees.

44 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
45 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
46 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
47 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of
48 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the
49 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
50 available to their respective agencies.

51 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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