

## Senate Resolution 132

By: Senators Polak of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Hecht of the 34<sup>th</sup> and Thompson of the 33<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Abuse of Children; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, it has become apparent that the tragedy of physical and sexual abuse of children  
3 is much more common than previously believed; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the trauma of abuse to the individual children and through them the injury to  
5 the state's future is incalculable; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the tragic results of the abuse of children show up most often in violent or  
7 criminal behavior by boys or self-destructive actions, such as drug abuse, promiscuity, or  
8 prostitution, by girls; and
- 9 WHEREAS, abused children who do not receive treatment are twice as likely as other  
10 children to attempt suicide; and
- 11 WHEREAS, experts estimate that one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused  
12 before the age of 18 and that over one-third of sexual abuse of children cases involve  
13 children of five years old or younger; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has studied, debated, and enacted a number of bills in  
15 recent years in our efforts to make Georgia a safer place for children to grow up to be strong  
16 adults, undamaged by physical or sexual abuse.
- 17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
18 Study Committee on the Abuse of Children to be composed of three members of the Senate  
19 to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the  
20 committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
2 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
3 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
4 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
5 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
6 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the  
7 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim  
8 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than three days unless  
9 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
10 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee  
11 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed  
12 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2001. The committee  
13 shall stand abolished on December 1, 2001.