

Senate Resolution 281

By: Senators Collins of the 6th, Price of the 56th, Tate of the 38th, Johnson of the 1st, Fort of the 39th and Stephens of the 51st

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Implementation of Children and Youth Services
2 Improvement Plans; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2002, the Governor's Action Group for Safe Children and the Department
4 of Human Resources issued very comprehensive reports that focused on Georgia's child
5 welfare system and provided a number of recommendations and plans to address areas of the
6 system that need improvement; and

7 WHEREAS, while many of the recommendations found in these two reports have been
8 proposed in similar earlier reviews of the state's child welfare system, the implementation
9 of such recommendations has often faced numerous obstacles; and

10 WHEREAS, a thorough legislative study is needed to identify the barriers to implementation
11 of such plans including legal, financial, regulatory, information management, and human
12 resources issues and how those barriers may be removed; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a need to identify opportunities to improve the alignment of efforts by
14 different state and local child welfare agencies, provide for the efficient use of resources,
15 measure the state's progress toward full implementation of the goals and recommendations
16 presented in the reports described above, and keep the General Assembly informed about all
17 the issues related to implementation.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
19 Study Committee on the Implementation of Children and Youth Services Improvement Plans
20 to be composed of not more than ten members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate
21 Committee on Assignments which shall also designate a member of the committee as
22 chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the 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 that it deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall receive from the
4 Department of Human Resources periodic reports as established by the committee on the
5 progress of the implementation of the department's plans for improvement of the child
6 welfare system. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times
7 as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its
8 powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
9 The members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative
10 members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five
11 days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions
12 of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. The committee shall
13 make two reports of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
14 legislation, if any. The first report shall be made on or before December 31, 2003, and the
15 second report shall be made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand
16 abolished on December 31, 2004.