

House Resolution 300

By: Representatives Manning of the 32nd, Rynders of the 152nd, Talton of the 145th, Oliver of the 83rd, Byrd of the 20th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Georgia to develop best practices in child welfare policy and urging the Department
2 of Human Resources Division of Family and Children Services and child advocates to meet
3 to discuss a Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the well-being of Georgia's children in foster care is of utmost concern to the
5 members of the Georgia House of Representatives; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Family and Children
7 Services (DHR-DFCS) is the legal custodian of children living in foster care; and

8 WHEREAS, children in the care of DHR-DFCS are best served when government leverages
9 community resources by working in partnership with the private, nonprofit, and faith
10 communities; and

11 WHEREAS, child advocates in Georgia are calling for a Bill of Rights for Children in Foster
12 Care in order to clarify existing rights under state and federal law so that children's rights
13 will be honored by the adults who care for them.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
15 this body urges the development of best practices in child welfare policy in Georgia.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges DHR-DFCS and child advocates to meet
17 to discuss a Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the participation of a
19 representative from the following child advocacy and child serving organizations:
20 DHR-DFCS, a county DFCS office, Office of the Child Advocate for the Protection of
21 Children, Georgia CASA, the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, Department of Juvenile
22 Justice, Adoptive and Foster Parents Association of Georgia, the United Against Child Abuse

1 Coalition, the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children, the Barton Child
2 Law and Policy Clinic, as well as a child advocate attorney, a youth living in foster care, and
3 others as indicated.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
5 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of Human
6 Resources Division of Family and Children Services.