

House Resolution 518 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Manning of the 32nd, Byrd of the 20th, Talton of the 145th, Neal of the 1st, Sinkfield of the 60th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's children are Georgia's future; and

4 WHEREAS, preschool children are confronted with many crucial developmental tasks,
5 including developing small and large motor skills, learning to speak and developing
6 vocabulary, developing self-confidence, developing the ability to play cooperatively with
7 other children, learning to share and respect the rights of others, developing hand eye
8 coordination, learning to feed and dress themselves, learning to solve simple problems
9 through reasoning, and learning to express feelings and ideas;

10 WHEREAS, to develop to their full potential, preschool children need a loving, nurturing
11 relationship with their parents or guardians; good nutrition; screening for developmental and
12 health problems; good role models; and adequate exercise, stimulation, play, and
13 communication; and

14 WHEREAS, the youngest children cannot speak for themselves, and a preschool child who
15 is experiencing a lack of some element vital for healthy development may not get the help
16 needed; and

17 WHEREAS, one cost of our mobile society is that parents often do not have an extended
18 family to advise and help with rearing children, and some parents need education about child
19 development stages or other aspects of parenting to help their children develop to their fullest
20 potential;

21 WHEREAS, better coordination of existing programs and services could help identify all of
22 Georgia's children who need some assistance to thrive; and

1 WHEREAS, a careful study of existing programs and services would be a first step toward
2 ensuring that all of Georgia's children are safe, healthy, and growing toward successful lives.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 there is created the House Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five to be
5 composed of five members. Five members of the House of Representatives shall be
6 appointed to the committee by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to include one
7 member who has a child under age 5. The Speaker shall designate a member of the
8 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
9 committee.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
11 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
12 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
13 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
14 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
15 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
16 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
17 Georgia Annotated from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The allowances
18 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more
19 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The committee is authorized to use
20 funds available from federal grants or other grants for the purposes of the committee. Staff
21 support for the committee may be provided by the Department of Early Care and Learning
22 and the Family Connection Partnership. The committee may call upon the expertise of the
23 Family Health Unit of the Public Health Division of the Department of Human Resources,
24 the Department of Education, the director and employees of Smart Start, the School of
25 Family and Consumer Sciences of the University of Georgia, the Association of
26 Pediatricians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and
27 Prevention, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, local Family Connection organizations, the
28 cooperative extension service, persons with expertise in early childhood development,
29 dieticians, child care providers, county health departments, pediatricians, the Commissioner
30 and staff of the Department of Early Care and Learning, the Barton Child Law and Policy
31 Clinic of Emory University, the Family Connection Partnership, the Department of
32 Education, and members of the business community. In the event the committee makes a
33 report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,
34 such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2005. The committee shall stand
35 abolished on December 1, 2005.