

The House Committee on Children and Youth offers the following substitute to HR 1079:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Creation of Focus on Our Future: A Children's
2 Budget; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the safety, welfare, and education of our children are of paramount importance;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, such safety, welfare, and education are dependent on appropriate and sufficient
6 funding of critical social and educational programs and on the fundamental principles that
7 drive state policy; and

8 WHEREAS, multiple agencies of state government support programs and interventions for
9 children and youth, often serving the same populations; and

10 WHEREAS, the child-serving agencies of state government have responsibility for planning
11 and budgets for their respective investments in defined services or outcomes related to
12 children; and

13 WHEREAS, there is difficulty in identifying all of the various line items in the current
14 format of the state budget which contribute wholly or partially to the conditions and status
15 of children and youth; and

16 WHEREAS, a study of the issues surrounding the feasibility and usefulness of an easily
17 accessed resource which would identify all programs, sources of funding in the state budget,
18 and trends in children's outcomes related to their safety, welfare, and education would be
19 beneficial to determine whether legislative action should be recommended.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 there is created the House Study Committee on the Creation of Focus on Our Future: A
22 Children's Budget to be composed of seven members. The Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives shall appoint five members of the House of Representatives as members of
2 the committee and shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives shall appoint two additional members of the committee who shall
4 include representatives of child advocacy or policy organizations. The committee shall meet
5 at the call of the chairperson. The committee shall utilize the expertise of agencies,
6 departments, groups, and organizations specializing in children's services and child advocacy
7 as it sees fit.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
9 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
10 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
11 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
12 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
13 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
14 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
15 Code of Georgia Annotated. Citizen members shall receive a daily expense allowance in the
16 amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
17 Annotated as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees.
18 All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
19 appropriated to the House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances authorized by
20 this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days
21 unless additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its
22 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
23 shall be made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand abolished on
24 December 31, 2006.