

House Resolution 1939

By: Representatives Loudermilk of the 14th, Jones of the 46th, Coan of the 101st, Burmeister of the 119th, Reese of the 98th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging and requesting the Department of Human Resources to conduct a multiday state-wide
2 conference to discuss the values and beliefs which should form the foundation for Georgia's
3 child welfare system as determined by the department's Division of Family and Children
4 Services, Georgia citizenry, legislators, other leaders, and other interested parties; and for
5 other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia places great value in the family unit and in our children;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human
9 Resources has a vital and challenging role in the protection of Georgia's children; and

10 WHEREAS, the mission and core values and beliefs of the division with regard to supporting
11 Georgia's families and keeping children safe drive the child protection policies and
12 procedures of the division; and

13 WHEREAS, a discussion of the values and beliefs underlying the foundation of the child
14 welfare system is necessary; and

15 WHEREAS, a number of best practices such as family team meetings and citizen review
16 panels are currently used in parts of the state and other parts of the state may benefit from
17 state-wide implementation.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 this body hereby urges and requests the Department of Human Resources to conduct a
20 multiday state-wide conference to discuss the values and beliefs which should form the
21 foundation for Georgia's child welfare system. The scope of the conference should include
22 but not be limited to discussion relating to the feasibility and efficacy of instituting citizen
23 review panels, conducting family team meetings, and exploring other issues deemed

1 appropriate and relevant to the purpose of the conference. The multiday conference shall
2 include three representatives from each of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches
3 of state government as well as local level judicial officers and representatives from academia
4 and service providers, other appropriate personnel, foster families, and advocates. The
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall recommend to the department three
6 representatives to participate in the conference. The department is urged and requested to
7 conduct this conference and make recommendations, including possible legislation, to the
8 General Assembly on or before December 31, 2006.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to
10 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the commissioner of the Department of
11 Human Resources.