

## Senate Resolution 1270

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Schaefer of the 50th, Pearson of the 51st, Williams of the 19th, Stephens of the 27th 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 SENATE that this body hereby urges  
19 and requests the Department of Human Resources to conduct a multiday state-wide  
20 conference to discuss the values and beliefs which should form the foundation for Georgia's  
21 child welfare system. The scope of the conference should include but not be limited to  
22 discussion relating to the feasibility and efficacy of instituting citizen review panels,  
23 conducting family team meetings, and exploring other issues deemed appropriate and

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

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