

House Resolution 157

By: Representatives Bruce of the 64th, Willard of the 49th, Keown of the 173rd, Williams of the 89th, Stephenson of the 92nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Continuing Education of Special Needs
2 Individuals; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, individuals with special needs now make up the largest population in the
4 country – one in five Americans are now affected with some disability and almost one-third
5 of all families are impacted by a disability; and

6 WHEREAS, every year in Georgia there are more than 100,000 mothers who give birth to
7 children with special needs; and

8 WHEREAS, qualified, personalized, and ongoing education and therapeutic programs for
9 individuals with special needs are almost nonexistent in Georgia, particularly for young
10 adults between the ages of 21 and 25, who immediately upon leaving high school have very
11 few options for continuing their education; and

12

13 WHEREAS, current day programs in Georgia do not provide adequate educational
14 stimulation and interaction with correlating age groups, hampering their social growth, but
15 such stimulation is essential for an individual with special needs to become more
16 self-sufficient; and

17 WHEREAS, it has become necessary for the State of Georgia to explore alternatives to create
18 a policy that will aid the development of Georgia's individuals with special needs.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on the Continuing Education of
21 Special Needs Individuals to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives
22 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and five members of the
23 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each designate a member of the

1 committee who shall serve as cochairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at
2 the call of the cochairpersons.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of what
4 alternatives are open to the General Assembly to increase the options that individuals with
5 special needs have open to them to continue their education and become contributing
6 members of their communities. The committee shall meet a minimum of four times at
7 locations throughout the State of Georgia to be determined by the cochairpersons. The
8 members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8
9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution
10 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than four days unless
11 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
12 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of
13 Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
14 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
15 made on or before the convening of the 2008 session of the General Assembly, at which time
16 the committee shall stand abolished.