

House Resolution 1606

By: Representative Manning of the 32nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Children's Mental Health in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia House of Representatives is concerned with the increasing
4 incidence of mental health problems in children and adolescents in Georgia, and the resulting
5 impact this has on these children, their families, our schools and other institutions, and the
6 citizens of our state; and

7 WHEREAS, mental health problems in children can impact their ability to learn and function
8 successfully in educational settings, their future job performance and productivity as later
9 adults, their families, and others; and

10 WHEREAS, the array of resources available to help and treat these children is stretched
11 beyond its ability to cope with the need; and

12 WHEREAS, there is a shortage in Georgia of qualified mental health professionals, including
13 child psychiatrists, child psychologists, and other mental health professionals trained to treat
14 children and adolescents for mental health problems; and

15 WHEREAS, other resources for children and adolescents with mental health problems,
16 including those operated under the auspices of the state, also face funding, staffing, and
17 administrative challenges which strain their ability to deliver optimal care for these children.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 there is created the House Study Committee on Children's Mental Health in Georgia to be
20 composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
21 of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall also designate a member of the
22 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
23 committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
2 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
3 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
4 of this resolution including, without limitation, a study of the problem of children's mental
5 health in Georgia, its impact on child and later adult health, and solutions to solve or
6 ameliorate this problem which may be undertaken. The legislative members of the
7 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
8 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
9 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
10 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The
11 committee shall report its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
12 legislation if any, on or before December 15, 2008. The committee shall stand abolished on
13 December 15, 2008.