

Senate Resolution 1187

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Goggans of the 7th, Unterman of the 45th and Grant of the 25th

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
18 Children's Mental Health in Georgia Study Committee to be composed of five members of
19 the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall
20 also designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson
21 shall call all meetings of the 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 members of the committee shall
7 receive the allowances provided for under Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
8 Georgia Annotated but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional
9 days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall
10 come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. The committee shall report its findings and
11 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation if any, on or before December
12 15, 2008. The committee shall stand abolished on December 15, 2008.