

House Resolution 9

By: Representatives Bruce of the 64th, Hembree of the 67th, Brooks of the 63rd, Bearden of the 68th, Fludd of the 66th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Teen Violence Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on November 7, 2010, Bobby Maurice Tillman, who was 18 years of age, was
3 brutally beaten and murdered at a house party in Douglasville, Georgia, and the alleged
4 perpetrators are four boys ranging from 17 to 20 years old; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the murder of Bobby Tillman was unprovoked and entirely senseless; and
- 6 WHEREAS, evidence in the murder investigation has revealed many teenagers watched this
7 brutal beating and murder without rendering aid or assisting in anyway; and
- 8 WHEREAS, on November 14, 2010, another teenager was murdered at a house party in
9 Conyers, Georgia, and the alleged perpetrators are teenagers; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that teenagers, which are commonly defined
11 as children between the ages of 12 and 19, rely upon adults to provide a safe environment for
12 them to learn to become productive members of society; and
- 13 WHEREAS, societal effects such as media, poverty, video games, music, social networks,
14 the Internet, and other technological advances have influenced teenage behavior, and teen
15 violence has substantially increased during this century; and
- 16 WHEREAS, a rise in teen violence all across the State of Georgia has hit an all-time high,
17 and many teenagers seem to be angry for unknown reasons and do not have meaningful
18 outlets for expression of that anger; and
- 19 WHEREAS, many teenagers are losing hope and living in fear of falling victim to other
20 teenagers through acts of violence while other teens are becoming perpetrators of violence;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, teen violence includes murders, aggravated assaults, robberies, burglaries, theft,
23 bullying, drug use and sale, rape and other sexual assaults, as well as other crimes that
24 involve juvenile perpetrators aged 12 to 19; and

25 WHEREAS, many teenage witnesses of teen violence are afraid to speak out against violence
26 or speak with law enforcement officials to aid in apprehending perpetrators; and

27 WHEREAS, victimized teenagers often end up brutally murdered or with serious injuries and
28 are at greater risk for drug and alcohol abuse, depression, suicide attempts, post-traumatic
29 stress disorder and other psychiatric disorders, developmental and social delays, unplanned
30 pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease and HIV infection, and becoming the perpetrator of
31 other crimes themselves; and

32 WHEREAS, the requirement of anger management courses for teenagers and parenting
33 classes for parents of teenagers who enter the juvenile justice system is currently
34 underutilized; and

35 WHEREAS, some teenage perpetrators miss or drop out of school, experience other
36 behavioral or social problems, or have been victimized and are likely to need intensive
37 counseling, mentoring, and other public social services well into adulthood.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
39 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Teen Violence Study Committee. The committee
40 shall consist of six members. Two members of the House of Representatives shall be
41 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two members of the Senate shall
42 be appointed by the President of the Senate, and the Governor shall appoint two members to
43 the committee. The Governor shall designate one member as chairperson. The chairperson
44 shall call all meetings of the committee.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
46 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
47 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
48 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
49 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
50 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. In conducting such study, the
51 committee may study current law and policy in Georgia and other states and may elicit views
52 from experts in the fields of child welfare, juvenile justice, education, social work, mental

53 health, and public health as well as input from teenage victims and teenage perpetrators of
54 teen violence. The committee may examine any and all recent policy and social science
55 reports on teen violence, including, but not limited to, the effect of teen violence on teenagers
56 in general and community safety. Also, the committee may review services that are currently
57 available to teenagers in Georgia, as well as best practices for serving teenagers. The
58 members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8
59 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution
60 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless
61 additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
62 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
63 made on or before January 9, 2012. The committee shall stand abolished on January 9, 2012.