

## House Resolution 1519

By: Representatives Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Howard of the 121<sup>st</sup>, Abrams of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 133<sup>rd</sup>, Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Early Learning Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, early education yields a significant long-term return on investment in increased  
3 workforce productivity and reduced societal costs of welfare and crime; and
- 4 WHEREAS, every \$1 investment in a child's first five years yields anywhere between \$4 and  
5 \$12 of public tax savings in the future, resulting in a lower demand for societal services,  
6 reduced crime rates, and increased tax revenues; and
- 7 WHEREAS, classic early education studies attribute economic benefits of high-quality early  
8 education to increased earnings of the participants, public savings due to reduced crime, and  
9 reduced need for remedial education, rehabilitation, and treatment; and
- 10 WHEREAS, research shows that children who enter school ready to succeed are more likely  
11 to graduate from high school, go on to college, and become productive members of the  
12 workforce; and
- 13 WHEREAS, for each additional child served in a pre-kindergarten program, school systems  
14 can save between \$2,600.00 and \$4,400.00 over the child's K-12 experience; and
- 15 WHEREAS, adverse early environments are powerful predictors of failure in school, and the  
16 return on investment for quality early childhood programs yields higher returns than other  
17 remedial initiatives; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the child care industry in Georgia, including Georgia's Pre-K Program,  
19 generates over \$4.1 billion in this state each year, provides 73,000 jobs in the industry itself,  
20 and generates an additional 12,900 jobs in other industries; and

21 WHEREAS, early education provides for healthy development, including the thickening of  
22 the cortex of an infant's brain, development of more extensive and sophisticated neuron  
23 structures, and creation of the neurological foundations that support lifelong learning; and

24 WHEREAS, the effect of pre-kindergarten programs on disadvantaged children appears to  
25 be larger when programs serve children from diverse backgrounds, yet children from  
26 middle-income families may have the least access to quality pre-k experiences; and

27 WHEREAS, the first years of a child's life serve as a foundation for later development, and  
28 a strong foundation can lead to improvement in school readiness and success in school; and

29 WHEREAS, a pre-kindergarten through third grade approach increases the likelihood that  
30 children are reading at grade level by 3rd grade; children who are not proficient readers by  
31 the end of 3rd grade are more likely to drop out of high school, creating an economic drain  
32 on the state; and

33 WHEREAS, a shorter pre-k day presents major issues for working and lower income parents,  
34 especially single parents, and a full-day pre-kindergarten program achieves the best results  
35 for high-risk children, who could become a problem to public safety later on in their lives;  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, for the 2009-2010 school year, Georgia's rank for access to pre-k fell from 3rd  
38 to 4th, surpassed by West Virginia; and

39 WHEREAS, the General Assembly believes that it would be beneficial to undertake a study  
40 of early learning in Georgia, with an emphasis on pre-kindergarten, including whether  
41 Georgia's Pre-K Program should continue to be funded with lottery proceeds, whether  
42 three-year-olds should be included, the length of the school year and school day, the quality  
43 of programs, and whether the regulation of such programs should be transferred to the  
44 Department of Education.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that there is  
46 created the Joint Early Learning Study Committee to be composed of 13 members as follows:

- 47 (1) Three members of the Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 48 (2) Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
49 House of Representatives;
- 50 (3) The commissioner of Early Care and Learning, or his or her designee;

- 51 (4) The State School Superintendent, or his or her designee;
- 52 (5) One representative from the Office of Planning and Budget, designated by the  
53 Governor;
- 54 (6) One representative from the Department of Public Health, designated by the  
55 commissioner of such department;
- 56 (7) One representative from the Department of Human Services, designated by the  
57 commissioner of such department;
- 58 (8) One representative from the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students,  
59 appointed by the Governor; and
- 60 (9) One representative from Voices for Georgia's Children, appointed by the Governor.

61 The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each  
62 designate one of their appointees to serve as cochairpersons. The committee may elect other  
63 officers as deemed necessary. The cochairpersons may designate and appoint subcommittees  
64 from among the membership of the committee as well as appoint other persons to perform  
65 such functions as they may determine to be necessary as relevant to and consistent with this  
66 resolution. The cochairpersons shall only vote to break a tie. The committee shall meet at  
67 the call of the cochairpersons. A quorum for transacting business shall be a majority of the  
68 members of the committee.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct its meetings at such places  
70 and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and  
71 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this  
72 resolution. Legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for  
73 in Code Section 28-1-8 of the O.C.G.A. Members of the committee who are state officials,  
74 other than legislative members, and state employees shall receive no compensation for their  
75 services on the committee, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the  
76 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are  
77 reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees. The funds  
78 necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative  
79 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available  
80 to their respective departments. All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
81 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the  
82 Senate.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the committee makes a report of its findings  
84 and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor, with suggestions for

85 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2012. The  
86 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2012.