

## House Resolution 641

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Epps of the 144<sup>th</sup>, Harden of the 148<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Children's Mental Health; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly is concerned with the early intervention and  
3 prevention of mental health problems in children and adolescents in Georgia and the  
4 resulting impact this has on these children, their families, and the citizens of this state; and

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

8 WHEREAS, the resources for children and adolescents with mental health problems face a  
9 number of challenges concerning funding and other issues which strain their ability to deliver  
10 optimal care for these children and adolescents; and

11 WHEREAS, available funding is divided among multiple state agencies and other entities  
12 which must compete with each other for such funding; and

13 WHEREAS, the support of early intervention and prevention programs of the Department  
14 of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to identify and treat children with  
15 mental health issues before such problems are deeply manifested should be encouraged; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the issue of available resources for children with  
17 mental health issues in this state and identify possible solutions or improvements in the  
18 delivery of services, particularly concerning early intervention and prevention services.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
20 GEORGIA:

21 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on  
22 Children's Mental Health.

23 (2) **Members and officers.**

24 (A) The committee shall be composed of nine members.

25 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the  
26 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
27 members as cochairperson.

28 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members  
29 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

30 (D) The Governor shall appoint three members of the committee.

31 (E) The committee may elect other officers as deemed necessary.

32 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
33 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
34 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

35 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The  
36 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem  
37 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform  
38 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

39 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

40 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided  
41 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

42 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
43 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,  
44 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their  
45 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for  
46 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

47 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
48 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
49 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
50 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
51 employees.

52 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received  
53 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are  
54 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
55 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate; except that funds  
56 for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members,  
57 and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to  
58 their respective agencies.

59 (6) **Report.**

60 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
61 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the  
62 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
63 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

64 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
65 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to subparagraph  
66 (C) of this paragraph.

67 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
68 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
69 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed  
70 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

71 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk  
72 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes  
73 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

74 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.