

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 641:

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
- 20 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
21 on Children's Mental Health.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
23 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
25 of the committee.

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

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

33 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
34 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
35 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
36 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
37 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
38 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

39 (6) **Report.**

40 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
41 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
42 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
43 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

44 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
45 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
46 of this paragraph.

47 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
48 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
49 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
50 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

51 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
52 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
53 thereof.

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