

House Resolution 979

By: Representatives Houston of the 170th, Ehrhart of the 36th, Tankersley of the 160th, Oliver of the 82nd, Efstrotation of the 104th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Programs That Provide Services for the Reading
2 to the Blind and the Visually Impaired; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the programs which provide services to those individuals with blindness and
4 visual impairment provide a vital function in the educational environment of this state; and

5 WHEREAS, the Reading for the Blind and the Visually Impaired program has several forms
6 of rehabilitation services and service delivery methods across the state, and various funding
7 methods and sources associated with each; and

8 WHEREAS, the rehabilitation services and other service programs are spread across a
9 variety of agency programs and geographic locations throughout the state and the blind and
10 visually impaired public may lack significant awareness of said services and programs; and

11 WHEREAS, adjustments in the rehabilitation services and the public awareness of service
12 programs should be enhanced along with the identification and study of the places and
13 programs which serve the blind and visually impaired and their service delivery area, the
14 scope of the programs or services; the funding sources of the programs or services; and the
15 individual participation rates for the numbers of citizens served annually.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

17 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
18 on Programs That Provide Services for the Reading to the Blind and the Visually
19 Impaired.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members to be
21 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:

22 (A) Four members of the House of Representatives, including the chairperson of the
23 Economic Development Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and

24 the chairperson of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Appropriations
25 Committee or his or her designee;

26 (B) The executive director of the Public Service Commission;

27 (C) The director of the Public Library Service of the Board of Regents of the
28 University System of Georgia; and

29 (D) A representative of the Center for the Visually Impaired.

30 The Speaker shall designate one of the legislative appointees as chairperson of the
31 committee.

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 chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
36 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
37 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
38 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) Nonlegislative members of the committee shall receive a daily expense allowance
43 in an amount the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of
44 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation
45 allowance authorized for state employees.

46 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
47 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
48 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
49 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

50 (6) **Report.** In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations
51 that include suggestions for proposed legislation, such findings shall be summarized by
52 the chairperson in a report prior to the date of abolishment of the committee.

53 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.