

House Resolution 1592

By: Representatives Clark of the 101st, Benton of the 31st, Evans of the 42nd, Frye of the 118th, Chandler of the 105th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Child Care Assistance; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia offers a child care assistance program to help families afford child care,
3 but the program only helps 5.9 percent of low-income children under the age of 13 in this
4 state; and
- 5 WHEREAS, more than 40 percent of Georgia's low-income families with children are
6 headed by single women; and
- 7 WHEREAS, women being unable to work due to child care responsibilities is one of the root
8 causes of generational poverty; and
- 9 WHEREAS, statistical data indicate that the probability of a single mother working full-time
10 would increase from 38 percent to 53 percent if she received assistance with child care costs;
11 and
- 12 WHEREAS, women of all educational levels are 40 percent more likely to stay employed
13 after two years if they received child care assistance; and
- 14 WHEREAS, studies show access to child care assistance returns parents to the workforce,
15 increases family income, and boosts Georgia's economy when parents purchase goods and
16 services and pay taxes; and
- 17 WHEREAS, disruptions related to child care cost United States businesses an estimated \$3
18 billion each year; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Georgia's income requirements for receiving child care assistance are more
20 stringent than those in 32 other states; and

21 WHEREAS, the base reimbursement rate in Georgia's child care assistance program does not
22 match market rates to give parents access to the majority of child care providers; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia is ranked in the last decile in quality of care for child assistance
24 programs; and

25 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this state to study child care assistance, specifically
26 the accessibility of child care assistance to low-income families, Georgia child care
27 assistance reimbursement rates and funding, options to increase the availability of child care
28 assistance, geographic gaps in child care providers, child care provider development, and
29 best practices of child care assistance across the United States.

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

31 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
32 on Child Care Assistance.

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

36 (A) Six members of the House of Representatives; and

37 (B) The executive director of the Atlanta Women's Foundation.

38 The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

58 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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