

Senate Resolution 1137

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Millar of the 40th, Unterman of the 45th, Orrock of the 36th, Jackson of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship
2 Care; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that there is a need to study the issues facing
4 grandparents and other family members as primary caregivers and guardians, including, but
5 not limited to, access to services, financial support, and making medical and academic
6 decisions for children in their care; and

7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly further finds that there is a need to examine the
8 administration and effectiveness of state funded programs designed to assist those providing
9 kinship care; and

10 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of government policies and services, proposals from
11 relevant interest groups and advocacy organizations in this state, and best practices from
12 other states is critical to ensure that issues facing grandparents and other family members are
13 considered and addressed.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

15 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
16 on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
18 Senate, including the Minority Leader, and four members to be appointed by the
19 President of the Senate. At least two of the members shall be from the minority party,
20 including the Minority Leader. The President shall designate a member of the committee
21 as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

35 (6) **Report.**

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

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

43 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
44 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
45 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
46 the Secretary of the Senate.

47 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
48 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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