

Senate Resolution 973

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Henson of the 41st, Davis of the 22nd, Seay of the 34th, Jackson of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Child Protection Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and welfare of Georgia's children is one of the most
3 important functions of the State of Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, statistics indicate that children entering foster care are at an increased risk of
5 developmental delays and disabilities due to a variety of factors; and
- 6 WHEREAS, more than 152 children under the care of the Division of Family and Children
7 Services of the Department of Human Resources have died in recent years; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the deaths of Eric Forbes and Emani Moss occurred in part because of
9 deficiencies in the Child Protective Services Division of the Department of Human
10 Resources; and
- 11 WHEREAS, it is vital that our state child support services are capable of quickly identifying
12 and assessing situations which pose a danger to children and of developing and implementing
13 plans of family assistance and intervention in order to protect the lives and future of our
14 children and prevent future tragedies; and
- 15 WHEREAS, of critical importance is improving outcomes for children and families, thus
16 ensuring appropriate child placement and providing a sense of security, permanence, and
17 stability for children in our care; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the state should give priority to reducing the number of moves and placements
19 of children in out-of-home care, increasing family foster care resources, and decreasing the
20 length of time children are separated from their homes through the provision of quality
21 supportive services.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
23 Child Protection Study Committee to be composed of six members of the Senate, three
24 appointed by the President of the Senate and three appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.
25 The President of the Senate shall designate one of the appointees to serve as chairperson of
26 the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
28 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
29 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
30 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. The members of the committee
33 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
34 committees but shall receive the same for not more than three days unless an additional two
35 days are authorized by the President of the Senate. The funds necessary to carry out the
36 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the
37 event that the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations for proposed
38 legislation, such report shall be made no later than December 1, 2014. The committee shall
39 stand abolished on December 1, 2014.