

## House Resolution 145

By: Representatives Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Cheokas of the 151<sup>st</sup>, Wade of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Barton of the 5<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Education and the Department of Public Health to collaborate to  
2 prioritize the expansion of vision and hearing screening at various grade levels to identify  
3 students with undiagnosed and untreated vision or hearing problems that may impede their  
4 acquisition of literacy skills; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, a significant percentage of school age children, approximately one-third,  
6 experience vision problems, yet for many of them the lack of vision screening and necessary  
7 follow-up diagnostic evaluations are impairing their ability to acquire literacy skills; and

8 WHEREAS, data indicates that 78 percent of infants born in Georgia who failed their  
9 newborn hearing screening did not receive a follow-up diagnostic test, significantly  
10 impacting their path to literacy; and

11 WHEREAS, there is a well documented direct link between vision and hearing health and  
12 the acquisition of literacy skills; and

13 WHEREAS, Code Section 20-2-771 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated authorizes  
14 and requires the Department of Education to collaborate with public health authorities to  
15 address health related mandates for students; and

16 WHEREAS, effective screening programs can identify vision and hearing impairments early,  
17 allowing timely interventions that support academic success and literacy development.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
19 that:

- 20 (1) The Department of Education and Department of Public Health are urged to  
21 collaborate in developing a comprehensive strategy and methods to expand vision and  
22 hearing screening for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first, third, fifth, and  
23 eighth grades, as well as for transfer students in all grade levels; and  
24 (2) Such comprehensive strategy and methods, once developed, shall be presented to the  
25 chairpersons of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education and Youth  
26 Committee and the Georgia Council on Literacy to ensure alignment with state literacy  
27 goals.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
29 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
30 representatives of the Department of Education and the Department of Public Health.