

House Resolution 396

By: Representatives Campbell of the 35th, Hugley of the 141st, Miller of the 62nd, Glaize of the 67th, Howard of the 129th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to
2 provide by law for the creation of the Georgia's Children First Trust Fund; to provide for the
3 appropriation of moneys into such fund, including a one-time appropriation from the
4 Revenue Shortfall Reserve; to provide that moneys appropriated into such fund shall not
5 lapse and shall be used to provide scholarships, grants, or other forms of financial assistance
6 for child care services; to provide for the investment and reinvestment of a portion of the
7 moneys appropriated into such fund; to provide that returns on such investments shall be
8 used for financial assistance for child care services; to provide for related matters; to provide
9 for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI of the Constitution is amended by adding a new
13 subparagraph to read as follows:

14 "(s) The General Assembly is authorized to provide by law for the creation of the
15 Georgia's Children First Trust Fund for the purpose of providing, in accordance with the
16 provisions of this subparagraph, financial assistance for child care services in this state.
17 Upon the creation of the Georgia's Children First Trust Fund, the General Assembly shall

18 make a one-time appropriation in the amount of \$3 billion into such fund, which shall be
 19 appropriated from the Revenue Shortfall Reserve. The General Assembly shall be
 20 authorized, but not required, to appropriate additional amounts into such fund. All moneys
 21 appropriated into the Georgia's Children First Trust Fund shall not be subject to the
 22 provisions of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph IV(c), relating to the lapsing of funds, and
 23 shall be used to provide scholarships, grants, or other forms of financial assistance for child
 24 care services in this state; provided, however, that a portion of the moneys appropriated to
 25 the Georgia's Children First Trust Fund shall be invested and reinvested in a manner as
 26 provided by law. Moneys received from returns on such investments and reinvestments
 27 shall be deposited into the Georgia's Children First Trust Fund and shall be used to provide
 28 scholarships, grants, or other forms of financial assistance for child care services in this
 29 state. The General Assembly shall be authorized to provide by law for any matters relating
 30 to the purpose or provisions of this subparagraph."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
 33 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
 34 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

35 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize the General
 36 Assembly to use a portion of the state's historic, multiyear revenue surplus
 37 () NO to create a self-sustaining Georgia's Children First Trust Fund for the
 38 purpose of providing access to child care services in this state?"

39 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
 40 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
 41 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
 42 become a part of the Constitution of this state.