

Senate Resolution 310

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Brass of the 6th, Hatchett of the 50th, Jackson of the 41st, Robertson of the 29th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Additional Services and Resources for Transition
2 Age Youth in Foster Care; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the transition from adolescence to adulthood is a critical developmental stage
4 as young people learn the necessary skills to be healthy and productive adults; and

5 WHEREAS, such transition can be challenging for youth with foster care experience; and

6 WHEREAS, according to a recent study, teenagers and young adults ages 16 to 21 are less
7 likely to leave foster care with permanent families than they were in years past; and

8 WHEREAS, young adults with foster care experience continue to be far less likely than their
9 peers in the general population to be enrolled in education or training subsequent to high
10 school or be stably housed or employed, and are often more likely to become young parents
11 or to experience incarceration; and

12 WHEREAS, according to a 2021 study, among 21 year olds with foster care experience, 79
13 percent earned a high school diploma or its equivalent compared to 92 percent of their peers
14 in the general population; and

15 WHEREAS, according to such study, only 24 percent of those foster care youth had enrolled
16 in postsecondary education or training, compared to 50 percent of their peers in the general
17 population; and

18 WHEREAS, moreover, according to such study, only 55 percent of those foster care youth
19 were employed full time or part time, compared to 64 percent of their peers in the general
20 population; and

21 WHEREAS, understanding the outcomes of young adults with foster care experience is
22 critical to shaping the services and support they need; and

23 WHEREAS, a study committee is needed to determine what resources and services are
24 currently being provided for transition age youth in this state and what additional services
25 and resources may be or should be available in order to ensure their success in adulthood.

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

27 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
28 on Additional Services and Resources for Transition Age Youth in Foster Care.

29 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
30 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall
31 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

35 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
36 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

37 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
38 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

45 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

59 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.