

House Resolution 1945

By: Representatives Davis of the 87th, Schofield of the 63rd, and Scott of the 76th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Examining the Implementation, Funding, and
2 Effectiveness of Georgia's CHINS Framework; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the child in need of services (CHINS) program is essential to address the needs
4 of youth without resorting to juvenile court or involving the Department of Juvenile Justice;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, status offenses are not criminal acts but often reflect underlying issues such as
7 family instability, behavioral health needs, housing insecurity, poverty, and lack of access
8 to supportive services; and

9 WHEREAS, the CHINS framework was designed to provide coordinated services through
10 the courts, schools, and community based organizations to address these issues and prevent
11 escalation into the juvenile justice system; and

12 WHEREAS, since its enactment more than a decade ago, the CHINS framework has largely
13 functioned as an unfunded or underfunded mandate, resulting in inconsistent implementation
14 across the state and limited access to services for many children and families; and

15 WHEREAS, research and policy evidence demonstrate that early intervention, family
16 stabilization, educational support, and community based services are significantly more
17 effective and less costly than detention and incarceration; and

18 WHEREAS, preventing youth from entering the juvenile justice system strengthens families,
19 improves educational outcomes, and reduces long-term public expenditures associated with
20 courts, incarceration, and social services; and

21 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the importance of examining the current
22 CHINS framework to ensure that it is adequately funded, effectively implemented, and
23 producing measurable outcomes for the children and families it was intended to serve; and

24 WHEREAS, adequate funding and infrastructure for the CHINS program will prevent status
25 offenses and behavioral issues from escalating, provide community based interventions, and
26 reduce recidivism while improving public safety and family stability; and

27 WHEREAS, dedicated funding, management, and accountability are necessary for the
28 CHINS program to ensure uniform implementation and effectiveness across this state.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

30 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
31 on Examining the Implementation, Funding, and Effectiveness of Georgia's CHINS
32 Framework.

33 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members of the
34 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
35 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
36 of the committee.

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

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

44 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

45 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
46 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

47 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
48 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
49 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
50 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

51 (6) **Report.**

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

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

59 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
60 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
61 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
62 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

63 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
64 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
65 thereof.

66 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2026.