

House Resolution 1214

By: Representatives Reese of the 140<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Smith of the 138<sup>th</sup>, and Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Affordability and Accessibility of Georgia's  
2 Legitimation Process; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in Georgia, a biological father who is not married to the mother of his child at  
4 the time of such child's birth must file a separate legal petition in order to legitimate the child  
5 and obtain legal rights as a parent; and

6 WHEREAS, the benefit of having two parents responsible for a child is known to have a  
7 positive effect on a child's welfare; and

8 WHEREAS, in Georgia, biological fathers who wish to obtain parental rights to their  
9 children are discouraged from doing so, often due to a lack of resources or awareness of the  
10 costs associated with legitimation; and

11 WHEREAS, it is worth considering whether the legitimation process in Georgia may be  
12 improved in a way that yields it more affordable and accessible, particularly for those  
13 biological fathers with limited financial resources.

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

15 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
16 on the Affordability and Accessibility of Georgia's Legitimation Process.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
18 House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate  
19 a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

27 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive  
28 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia  
29 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any  
30 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.  
31 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
32 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

33 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

48 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.