

House Resolution 291

By: Representatives Park of the 101st, Hugley of the 136th, Hutchinson of the 107th, Moore of the 95th, Clark of the 108th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Increasing Access to Afterschool Programs; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, high quality afterschool programs provide children greater learning
4 opportunities that can lead to better educational outcomes and safer communities; and

5 WHEREAS, demand for afterschool programs in Georgia is growing with nearly 600,000
6 school-aged children likely to enroll in a program if one were available in the community;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, high quality afterschool programs can increase high school graduation rates,
9 reduce student achievement gaps, and improve the physical and mental well-being of
10 children; and

11 WHEREAS, expansion of afterschool programs can build safer communities by providing
12 a safe and nurturing environment for the approximately 18 percent or 300,000 school-aged
13 children in Georgia who are alone between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. during
14 which time 19 percent of juvenile violent crimes occur; and

15 WHEREAS, to increase access to high quality afterschool programs the following should be
16 studied: financial and geographic barriers that inhibit participation; the needs and challenges
17 of existing afterschool programs; state and federal programs and funding sources; ways to
18 foster partnerships with existing providers, including public schools, religious organizations,
19 private schools, YMCAs, and the Boys and Girls Clubs; and other strategies and solutions
20 that can expand educational opportunities for children in a long-term, sustainable manner.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
22 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
23 on Increasing Access to Afterschool Programs.

(2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional four members of the committee as follows: an after-school provider, a representative from the Georgia Department of Education, a representative of an entity or coalition promoting the interest of working families, and a representative of kindergarten through twelfth grade educational institutions who must be a school board member, superintendent, or teacher. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

(5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

(A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

(B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than members of the General Assembly, or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

(C) Members of the committee who are not members of the General Assembly, state officials, or state employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees.

(D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than members of the General Assembly, and for the reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

60 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

75 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.