

House Resolution 1249

By: Representatives Kausche of the 50th, Robichaux of the 48th, Holland of the 54th, Clark of the 108th, Moore of the 95th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Increasing Access to Pre-K and After-School
2 Programs; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, sixty percent of four-year-olds in this state currently participate in Georgia's
4 Pre-K Program, and 40 percent do not; and

5 WHEREAS, participation in high-quality early education programs has been shown to
6 increase school readiness by improving social-emotional skills and skills in all learning
7 domains, including, but not limited to, math, language, and literacy; and

8 WHEREAS, participation in high-quality after-school programs improves student success
9 both in the classroom and at home, reduces student absences by 25 percent, increases
10 homework completion by 90 percent, improves classroom behavior by 80 percent, and
11 improves grades in both English and math by over 75 percent; and

12 WHEREAS, participation in high-quality after-school programs can increase attendance,
13 improve behavior, and raise student achievement, as well as provide children and youth from
14 kindergarten through high school with a safe and enriching place to go after the school day
15 ends; and

16 WHEREAS, barriers to participation in Pre-K and after-school programs, including, but not
17 limited to, a lack of access, awareness, and availability, limit the number of children who
18 benefit from such programs; and

19 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 Afterschool Alliance survey, Georgia parents reported that
20 16 percent of children aged five to 18 years were enrolled in an after-school program, but an
21 additional 600,000 more children would be enrolled if they had access to a program in their
22 community; and

23 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry generates \$4.7 billion in economic activity
24 and provides more than 67,000 jobs around Georgia to provide solid foundations for
25 children's educational future; and

26 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study potential strategies to incentivize and increase
27 the number of high-quality and affordable Pre-K and after-school programs, including tax
28 benefits, and to encourage public, private, and nonprofit organizations to provide and expand
29 opportunities for children to participate in such programs.

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

31 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
32 on Increasing Access to Pre-K and After-School Programs.

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 also appoint an additional six members of the
36 committee as follows: a representative from the Department of Education, a
37 representative from the Department of Early Care and Learning, an after-school provider,
38 a private Pre-K provider, an entity representing young children, and an entity representing
39 school-aged children. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as
40 chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

69 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

84 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.