

House Resolution 1260

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Welch of the 110th, Golick of the 40th, Silcox of the 52nd, and Reeves of the 34th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Juvenile Court Judges; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the safety and welfare of Georgia's citizens and property are best be served by
3 dedicated and competent juvenile court judges who fairly balance the needs of children with
4 the needs of the community and those who have been victims of delinquent acts committed
5 by children; and

6 WHEREAS, the Juvenile Code, Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia
7 Annotated, was comprehensively rewritten in 2013; and

8 WHEREAS, juvenile court judges, child advocate attorneys, juvenile public defenders and
9 attorneys who represent children, prosecuting attorneys, child welfare practitioners, law
10 enforcement officials, and state policymakers have recognized the necessity of reviewing the
11 current laws as applied to the compensation of juvenile court judges, their appointment,
12 qualifications, and governance; and

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

14 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
15 on Juvenile Court Judges.

16 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 10 members as
17 follows:

18 (A) Three members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
19 one of whom shall be designated chairperson;

20 (B) Two juvenile court judges to be appointed by the Council of Juvenile Court Judges;

21 (C) One superior court judge, who previously served as a juvenile court judge, to be
22 appointed by the Council of Superior Court Judges;

23 (D) The commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice or his or her designee;

24 (E) The executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council or his or her designee;

25 (F) The executive director of the Public Defenders Council or his or her designee; and

26 (G) One special assistant attorney general who regularly handles juvenile court
27 proceedings, to be appointed by the Attorney General.

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

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

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

36 Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall receive the
37 allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
38 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
39 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
40 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
41 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

42 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

57 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.