

House Resolution 1280

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 43rd, Gambill of the 15th, Dickerson of the 113th, and Dickey of the 140th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Childhood Lead Exposure; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly is concerned with the early intervention and
3 prevention of childhood lead exposure; and
- 4 WHEREAS, childhood lead poisoning can be prevented; and
- 5 WHEREAS, primary prevention is the best way to prevent the adverse outcomes of lead
6 exposure, in which damage cannot be reversed; and
- 7 WHEREAS, lead paint is present in one-third of the nation's dwellings, particularly older
8 homes; and
- 9 WHEREAS, there is no safe blood lead level in children, as even small amounts have been
10 shown to affect IQ, attention span, and academic achievement; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in 2012, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its
12 recommendations on children's blood lead levels and recommended interventions when blood
13 levels reach 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood; and
- 14 WHEREAS, under current Georgia law, confirmed lead poisoning means a confirmed
15 concentration of lead equal to or greater than 20 micrograms of lead per deciliter for a single
16 venous test or between 15 and 19 micrograms of lead per deciliter in two capillary tests taken
17 at least three months apart, resulting in missing a population of exposed children; and
- 18 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the full effect of lead exposure on this missing
19 population and make recommendations on how Georgia can effectively prevent adverse
20 outcomes.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 GEORGIA:

23 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
24 Childhood Lead Exposure.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 11 members as
26 follows:

27 (A) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:

28 (i) Three members of the House of Representatives and shall designate one of such
29 members as cochairperson; and

30 (ii) Two citizens of this state, one of whom shall be a pediatrician with a specialty in
31 childhood lead exposure and poisoning;

32 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint:

33 (i) Three members of the Senate and shall designate one of such members as
34 cochairperson; and

35 (ii) Two citizens of this state, one of whom shall be a representative of an
36 organization having programs related to childhood lead prevention; and

37 (C) The commissioner of the Department of Public Health or his or her designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

65 **(6) Report.**

66 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
67 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
68 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
69 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

70 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
71 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
72 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

73 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
74 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
75 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
76 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

77 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk
78 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes
79 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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