

## House Resolution 354

By: Representatives Kendrick of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, Alexander of the 66<sup>th</sup>, Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Chandler of the 105<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of  
2 Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and mental health experts, to develop and  
3 provide to local school systems a list of training materials that would serve to increase  
4 awareness of mental health issues and behavioral and learning disabilities; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 WHEREAS, one in ten children has serious mental health issues that are severe enough to  
7 impair how they function at home, in school, or in the community; and

8 WHEREAS, 15.4 percent of children ages two to eight years old have at least one diagnosed  
9 mental, behavioral, or developmental disability; and

10 WHEREAS, between 9.5 and 14.2 percent of children, from birth to age five experience  
11 significant social-emotional problems that negatively impact their functioning, development,  
12 and school-readiness; and

13 WHEREAS, the onset of major mental illness issues may occur as early as seven to 11 years  
14 of age; and

15 WHEREAS, almost 50 percent of all long-term mental health issues begin by the age 14; and

16 WHEREAS, 14 percent of children with mental health issues receive grades of mostly Ds  
17 and Fs on school work; and

18 WHEREAS, 44 percent of children with mental health issues drop out of high school; and

19 WHEREAS, in the course of the school year, many children with mental health issues miss  
20 from 18 to 22 days of school.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
22 the members of this body urge the Georgia Department of Education, in consultation with  
23 the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and mental health  
24 experts, to develop and provide to local school systems a list of training materials that would  
25 serve to increase awareness of mental health issues and behavioral and learning disabilities.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
27 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to local  
28 boards of education.