

The House Committee on Juvenile Justice offers the following substitute to HR 768:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's mandatory reporting law was created in 1965 and has not been  
4 substantially rewritten since 1990; and

5 WHEREAS, the protection of children is of utmost importance to this body and society; and

6 WHEREAS, mandatory reporters include individuals working in health care, education, law  
7 enforcement, and child welfare, and it is critical for mandatory reporters to identify what  
8 needs to be reported and to whom and for there to be uniformity in the process of reporting  
9 child abuse; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia law requires certain individuals who have "reasonable cause to believe  
11 that a child has been abused" must report such abuse, and there may be some confusion as  
12 to when abuse should be reported; and

13 WHEREAS, schools and health care facilities may have different policies regarding reporting  
14 child abuse, and there may be a need for consistent policies; and

15 WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services, prosecuting attorneys, and law enforcement  
16 all have an interest in ensuring that child abuse is properly reported.

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

18 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
19 on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
21 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional two nonlegislative

23 members of the committee. The Speaker shall designate one of the legislative appointees  
24 as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

40 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
41 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
42 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
43 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

44 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

59 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.