

Senate Resolution 471

By: Senators Albers of the 56th, Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Robertson of the 29th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Access to Affordable Child Care; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, many Georgians struggle to find affordable child care options, both for
4 preschool and school-aged children; and

5 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this problem, forcing many child care
6 centers in this state to close, leaving many child care workers to seek alternative
7 employment; and

8 WHEREAS, despite the availability of various forms of state and federal assistance, many
9 child care centers have either failed to reopen or have opened with limited staff; and

10 WHEREAS, the recent expiration of allocated funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of
11 2021 puts additional child care centers, children, parents, and caregivers at risk, with at least
12 one report suggesting that Georgia may lose 10,575 child care jobs and experience 944 child
13 care program closures, resulting in the loss of care for more than 80,000 children in this state;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in addition to the effects of inflation on the broader economy, the rising cost of
16 child care as a large share of family income makes it a supportive service that is largely
17 unattainable for many Georgians; and

18 WHEREAS, estimates suggest that parents without affordable child care options could
19 annually face \$218 million in lost wages due to drastically cut work hours or being forced
20 to leave the workforce entirely; and

21 WHEREAS, in particular, limited access to affordable child care serves as a significant
22 barrier for mothers of young children to enter and remain in the workforce full-time; and

23 WHEREAS, a study is needed to thoroughly determine what measures may be necessary and
24 appropriate to increase access to affordable child care in this state.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

26 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
27 on Access to Affordable Child Care.

28 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members to be
29 appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall appoint a
30 chairperson of the committee from its membership.

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

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

38 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.** The legislative members of the committee
39 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
40 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received
41 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
42 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
43 from funds appropriated to the Senate.

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 Secretary of the Senate.

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

58 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.