

## 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

**ADOPTED SENATE**

## 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.