

By: Representative Holland

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CREATE A JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE TO  
2 EVALUATE THE CURRENT STATE OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES WITHIN THE  
3 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ALTERNATE  
4 STRATEGIES TO POSITIVELY AFFECT THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND THEIR  
5 FAMILIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON; TO DIRECT THE JOINT  
6 COMMITTEE TO MAKE A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND  
7 RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2004; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE  
9 OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That a Special  
10 Joint Study Committee is created to evaluate the current state of  
11 child welfare services and make recommendations thereon. The  
12 committee shall be composed of eight members as follows: the  
13 Chairman of the House Public Health and Human Services Committee  
14 and the Chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare  
15 Committee, who shall serve as cochairmen, the Vice Chairman of the  
16 House Public Health and Human Services Committee and the Vice  
17 Chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, two  
18 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and  
19 two Senators appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

20 Not later than 15 days after the date of sine die adjournment  
21 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Speaker of the  
22 House and the Lieutenant Governor shall make the necessary  
23 appointments to the committee. After the members are appointed,  
24 the committee shall meet in Jackson, Mississippi, on a date  
25 designated by the cochairmen to select a vice chairman of the  
26 committee, who shall also serve as secretary of the committee, to  
27 organize the committee and to establish rules for transacting its  
28 business and keeping records. An affirmative vote of a majority

29 of the members shall be required in the adoption of rules,  
30 resolutions and reports.

31 All members of the committee shall be notified in writing of  
32 all regular and special meetings of the committee, which notices  
33 shall be mailed not less than five days before the dates of the  
34 meetings.

35 The committee may establish any subcommittees that it deems  
36 desirable to study and report to the committee with respect to any  
37 matter included in the scope of this resolution.

38 The committee shall make a written report of its findings and  
39 recommendations, and shall mail copies of the report to each  
40 member of the Legislature not later than December 1, 2004.

41 In carrying out the provisions of this resolution, the  
42 committee may utilize the services, facilities and personnel of  
43 all departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state,  
44 including the state universities and community and junior  
45 colleges. The committee shall consult with the Executive  
46 Directors of the Department of Human Services, the Division of  
47 Medicaid, the Department of Mental Health and the Department of  
48 Health, who shall cooperate with the committee and provide the  
49 committee with any information and other assistance requested by  
50 the committee. The committee is encouraged to seek advice from  
51 various child and family advocate and social work groups in the  
52 state in order to understand the effect of any existing laws or  
53 any changes in law being considered by the committee.

54 For attending meetings of the committee, each member of the  
55 committee shall be paid a per diem compensation in the amount  
56 authorized by Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, and a  
57 mileage allowance and an expense allowance in the amount  
58 authorized by Section 5-1-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, to be paid  
59 from the contingent expense fund of the member's respective house.  
60 However, no per diem compensation, mileage allowance or expense  
61 allowance shall be paid for attending meetings of the committee

62 while the Legislature is in session, and no per diem compensation,  
63 mileage allowance or expense allowance shall be paid without prior  
64 approval of the proper committee in the member's respective house.