

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY SHOULTZ

A Concurrent Resolution requesting that the Legislative Council appoint an interim study committee relating to family law issues.

WHEREAS, many socioeconomic factors place increased stress on the family; and

WHEREAS, these stresses have resulted in increased single-parent homes, child and domestic abuse, poverty, and violence; and

WHEREAS, nearly 50 percent of children today will spend a portion of their childhood living in a single-parent home; and

WHEREAS, the family income of those living in single-parent homes has declined when compared with the family income of those living in two-parent homes, resulting in an increased number of children and families living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the issues involved in family relationships, including paternity, custody, visitation, and support of children, the rights and responsibilities of parents vis-a-vis their children, and financial responsibilities between domestic partners, result in a complex family law system; and

WHEREAS, the family law system, in addressing these issues, utilizes an adversarial process which may exacerbate any conflict which exists between the parties, resulting in harmful effects to the parties and to any children involved; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE

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1 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Council is
2 requested to appoint a study committee during the 1996
3 legislative interim to review and make recommendations
4 regarding the family law system, including but not
5 limited to issues relating to dissolution of marriage,
6 child custody, visitation, and support, termination of
7 parental rights, and domestic abuse, and to submit a
8 report to the General Assembly on or before December
9 15, 1996.

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