

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

H

1

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 394

Sponsors: Representatives Mercer; Smith and Warner.

Referred to: Rules, Appointments and Calendar.

March 28, 1991

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO CONTINUE WELFARE
2 REFORM TO ENABLE MORE PEOPLE TO AVOID LONG-TERM WELFARE
3 DEPENDENCY.

4 Whereas, the Family Support Act of 1988, generally referred to as Welfare
5 Reform, was enacted by Congress and signed into law on October 13, 1988; and

6 Whereas, the major thrust of the Family Support Act was to begin to change
7 the current system of welfare income maintenance into a system that helps welfare
8 families achieve self-sufficiency; and

9 Whereas, the Family Support Act represents the most substantive revision of
10 the nation's welfare system since its inception in the 1930's; and

11 Whereas, the process of reform begun by the Family Support Act must be
12 continued as there are still far too many families in North Carolina and throughout the
13 nation struggling unsuccessfully to avoid long-term welfare dependency;

14 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

15 Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina urges Congress to
16 continue the excellent progress towards welfare reform begun by the Family Support
17 Act of 1988. This continued progress should include:

18 (1) The provision of more incentives to families to find permanent
19 employment and avoid long-term welfare dependency; and

20 (2) The provision of more, essential financial and support-service
21 assistance to these families. This support-service assistance should
22 include:

- 1 a. More accessible programs that provide education and training
2 needed to help them to find suitable permanent employment;
3 and
4 b. More accessible day care programs for their children to enable
5 the working family members to remain employed, to advance in
6 their employment, and to keep enough of their income to keep
7 them from falling back into welfare dependency.

8 Sec. 2. The General Assembly further urges Congress specifically to consider
9 more creative methods of income management that will enable more people not only to
10 have better living conditions, less poverty, but to enable them to get off and stay off the
11 welfare roles. This consideration should include:

- 12 (1) Allowing all families receiving any welfare payments or benefits the
13 opportunity to earn up to a certain set amount annually, such as three
14 thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600) per each family member,
15 without having any welfare benefits reduced; and
16 (2) Acknowledging, in any methodology adopted, that full-time permanent
17 employment at the federal minimum wage cannot be considered to
18 supply most families with enough income to enable them to avoid
19 long-term welfare dependency.

20 Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
21 to the members of the United States Congress representing North Carolina and to the
22 Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the United
23 States Senate.

24 Sec. 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.