

By Senators Ayer and Sears,

Senate resolution relating to the Senate Committee on Child Protection.

*Whereas*, on February 21, 2014, two-year-old Dezirae Sheldon died as a result of head injuries, and her stepfather has been arrested and charged with murder in connection with her death, and

*Whereas*, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate has appointed a panel to investigate issues raised by the death of Dezirae, including whether current laws, policies, and procedures are sufficient to meet Vermont's high expectations concerning child protection, and to determine if legislative changes are necessary, and

*Whereas*, the Senate Panel on Child Protection is co-chaired by Senators Ayer and Sears, and includes Senators Cummings, Flory, French, Kitchel, and Mullin, and

*Whereas*, it has become evident that the Panel will not be able to investigate fully the many issues raised by Dezirae's death before adjournment, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate:***

There is created a Senate Committee on Child Protection to carry on the work begun by the Senate Panel on Child Protection, including investigating whether current laws, policies, and procedures are sufficient to meet Vermont's

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high expectations concerning child protection, and determining if legislative changes are necessary, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Committee shall be co-chaired by Senators Ayer and Sears, and the members shall be Senators Cummings, Flory, French, Kitchel, and Mullin, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Committee may conduct hearings and may administer oaths to and examine under oath any person, *and be it further*

② { **Resolved:** That the Committee shall have the power, by a majority vote of the Committee, to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, papers, vouchers, accounts, or documents, *and be it further*

③ { **Resolved:** That any confidential records obtained by the Committee shall be exempt from public inspection and copying, shall be kept confidential, and shall not be disclosed, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Committee shall continue to meet during the session as the Co-Chairs determine appropriate, *and be it further*

④ { **Resolved:** That the Committee may meet no more than ten times after the adjournment of the General Assembly, unless additional meetings are determined to be necessary by the Co-Chairs and approved by the President Pro Tempore, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Committee may hold hearings at whatever locations the Co-Chairs determine appropriate, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Committee shall cease to exist on January 6, 2015, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That, for attendance at meetings after adjournment of the General Assembly, members of the Committee shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That on or before January 6, 2015, the Committee shall report to the Senate on its findings and any recommendations for legislative action, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Committee shall receive the assistance of the Office of Legislative Council.

