

**Georgia Child Support Commission
Economic Subcommittee
Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair
Wednesday, June 21, 2023
2:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

The Economic Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) held this meeting via Zoom Webinar. Three (3) Subcommittee members attended the meeting. The Subcommittee members in attendance were:

Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair

Charles “Chuck” Clay

Rep. Houston Gaines

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for this meeting. Members of the Economic Subcommittee joined as panelists and members of the public attended this open meeting.

Chair Tutterow called upon the staff to report the number of Subcommittee members present for the meeting and Staff Attorney Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez reported we needed four members to establish quorum and we were short by one Subcommittee member. Chair Tutterow moved to adopt the minutes from October 19, 2022, and Houston Gaines seconded the motion. The three Subcommittee members in attendance voted to approve those minutes. Due to the lack of quorum, Dr. Tutterow directed an e-vote on the motion to approve minutes noting that once staff receives one e-vote from a Subcommittee member, the motion will pass.

Dr. Tutterow began a discussion on the status of the 2022 Economic Study Report and the Basic Child Support Obligation (BCSO) table. He noted that this Subcommittee previously approved the 2022 Economic Study Report, and based on findings in that report, could recommend updating Georgia’s Basic Child Support Obligation (“BCSO”) Table. Dr. Tutterow gave a brief history of some of the methodologies underpinning the BCSO Table. He explained that when the Commission first went through the child support analysis rigorously back in 2006, we considered at that time two of the dominant methodologies for estimating child support. One was the Engel methodology, and one was the Rothbarth and at that time, there were arguments in favor of each. The concern was that Engel might be a little bit biased up and that Rothbart might be a little bit biased down. So, what the Commission decided to do was to take the average of those two as a best estimator. And that's the basis for the tables that we've used up until now. Dr. Tutterow explained that he wants the Subcommittee to look at a couple of options, including taking the previous tables and adjusting them for inflation. He explained that over time price levels have gone up anywhere from 42% to 50%, depending on how you measure it since 2006 and we certainly want to capture that in the tables. The other thing to consider is that our subcommittee, now the Statute Review Subcommittee, is working on low-income and it may be that the concerns on decreases in lower-income child support can be handled through the courts and the deviation.

Subcommittee member Chuck Clay shared that he was in the General Assembly in the Senate when these guidelines were being discussed, legislated, and passed in 2006. He stated that he agrees that Chair Tutterow's thought of an inflationary index without moving away fundamentally from what has been used, is appropriate.

Dr. Tutterow will be consulting with economist Dr. Jane Venohr to consider various options to update the BCSO Table, which include switching to the Rothbarth methodology or using the same methodology the Commission used in 2006 updated for inflation. The Subcommittee will discuss those various options at its next meeting on July 26, 2023. The Subcommittee's recommendations from that meeting will be presented by Dr. Tutterow at the next full Commission meeting on August 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center and via Zoom.

The next Economic Subcommittee meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., is open to the public and will be conducted Zoom Webinar.

This meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.