

House Resolution 547

By: Representatives Wilkerson of the 38th, Thomas of the 100th, Abrams of the 89th, Kaiser of the 59th, Fludd of the 64th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Student Scholarship Organization Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2008, the General Assembly authorized the establishment of student
4 scholarship organizations to receive donations from taxpayers and award scholarships from
5 the donations to students to attend private schools; and

6 WHEREAS, taxpayers making donations to a student scholarship organization are eligible
7 to receive a tax credit; and

8 WHEREAS, other states have also authorized such arrangements; and

9 WHEREAS, currently, legislators and taxpayers are prohibited from obtaining and reviewing
10 any data related to the program; and

11 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the student scholarship organization program and
12 corresponding tax credit in Georgia and compare it to similar arrangements in other states
13 to determine:

14 (1) The transparency measures that are in place in Georgia as compared to other states to
15 ensure fairness in the process;

16 (2) Whether the program is providing adequate opportunities to all students; and

17 (3) A method to measure the success of the program.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 there is created the House Student Scholarship Organization Study Committee to be
20 composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
21 of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee
22 as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the issues
24 raised herein. The committee shall recommend any actions or legislation which the
25 committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at
26 such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise
27 fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and
28 purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances
29 provided for by Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated but shall
30 receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The
31 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
32 appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of
33 its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
34 report shall be made on or before December 1, 2013. The committee shall stand abolished
35 on December 1, 2013.