

House Resolution 898 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97th, Tanner of the 9th, Jones of the 47th, Dickey of the 140th, Nix of the 69th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the majority of primary and secondary public schools and local school systems
4 in Georgia seek accreditation through a private organization; and

5 WHEREAS, there is no state government entity in Georgia that accredits primary and
6 secondary public schools or local school systems; and

7 WHEREAS, some states provide for state accreditation of their public schools and school
8 systems; and

9 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to undertake a study regarding the potential establishment
10 of a state accreditation process for public schools and school systems in this state, including:

- 11 (1) The resources and structure that would be necessary, any impediments that would
12 need to be addressed, and the interaction with existing private accreditation agencies;
- 13 (2) An analysis of aligning accreditation review with charter or contract renewal for
14 charter systems and strategic waivers school systems, respectively;
- 15 (3) The possible establishment of a state process for the annual review of system charters
16 and contracts, including student academic achievement, local board governance, and
17 financial management;
- 18 (4) Possible consequences of losing state accreditation that could be utilized, such as
19 removal of local board of education members and loss of system charter or contract; and
- 20 (5) The possibility of establishing a school board review commission.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 GEORGIA:

- 23 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
24 the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following
26 members:

27 (A) Three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
28 of the House of Representatives, who shall designate one of such members as
29 cochairperson;

30 (B) Three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, who
31 shall designate one of such members as cochairperson;

32 (C) The State School Superintendent or his or her designee;

33 (D) The chairperson of the State Board of Education or his or her designee;

34 (E) The director of the State Charter Schools Commission or his or her designee;

35 (F) The director of the Office of Student Achievement or his or her designee;

36 (G) The chancellor of the University System of Georgia or his or her designee; and

37 (H) The following members appointed by the Governor:

38 (i) A local board of education member;

39 (ii) A local school superintendent;

40 (iii) A principal;

41 (iv) A teacher; and

42 (v) A parent.

43 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
44 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
45 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

46 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The
47 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
48 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform
49 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

50 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

51 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
52 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

53 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
54 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,
55 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their
56 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for
57 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

58 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
59 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
60 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia

61 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
62 employees.

63 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
64 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
65 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
66 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate; except that funds
67 for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members,
68 and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to
69 their respective agencies.

70 **(6) Report.**

71 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
72 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
73 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
74 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

75 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
76 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
77 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

78 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
79 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
80 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
81 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

82 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk
83 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes
84 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

85 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.