

Senate Resolution 203

By: Senators Rahman of the 5th, Robertson of the 29th, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Outdoor Learning Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Georgia enjoys abundant and diverse natural resources that provide residents,
3 including Georgia's children and young adults, with a broad variety of enriching outdoor
4 experiences; and

5 WHEREAS, a growing body of research and literature indicates that being outdoors and in
6 natural areas is increasingly important for children and young adults, benefiting their
7 emotional, mental, and physical well-being; and

8 WHEREAS, studies have shown that students who engage in outdoor learning experiences
9 develop a sense of independence, confidence, creativity, and decision-making skills; and

10 WHEREAS, studies have shown that outdoor learning experiences can lead to better test
11 scores, behavior, and attendance; and

12 WHEREAS, as a part of this study, the General Assembly needs to understand how outdoor
13 learning experiences can help Georgia's children and young adults both in their educational
14 experience and in their personal development; and

15 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to review existing laws to identify legislative
16 responses that could provide Georgia's children and young adults with more opportunities
17 for beneficial and effective outdoor learning experiences.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

19 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Outdoor Learning
20 Study Committee.

21 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
22 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate one
23 of such members as chairperson of the committee.

24 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
25 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
26 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
27 be authorized to request the assistance of the University System of Georgia, the Technical
28 College System of Georgia, the Department of Education, the Department of Natural
29 Resources, the Department of Public Safety, and other similar experts in the area to assist
30 the committee in its study.

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

35 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

38 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
39 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds

40 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
41 appropriated to the Senate.

42 (6) **Report.**

43 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
44 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
45 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
46 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

47 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
48 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
49 of this paragraph.

50 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
51 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
52 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
53 the Secretary of the Senate. Any member of the committee may file a minority report
54 that shall accompany the majority report.

55 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
56 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

57 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.