

## Senate Resolution 329

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Butler of the 55th, Orrock of the 36th, Harrell of the 40th and Jackson of the 41st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Excellence, Innovation, and Technology at  
2 Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were first founded  
4 before the American Civil War with the purpose of opening the doors of educational  
5 opportunity for many African Americans who were once legally denied higher education due  
6 to racial discrimination; and

7 WHEREAS, there are over 100 HBCUs in the nation, and ten of these institutions of learning  
8 are established here in the State of Georgia with three public HBCUs housed within the  
9 University System of Georgia: Albany State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort  
10 Valley State University, Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse School of  
11 Medicine, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, Paine College, Savannah State  
12 University, and Spelman College; and

13 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University was the first HBCU in the Southern United States,  
14 founded as Atlanta University in 1865, and Savannah State University, established in 1890,  
15 is the oldest public historically Black college in the State of Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, HBCUs significantly contribute to the creation of African American science  
17 degree holders in agriculture, biology, computer science, physical science, and social science  
18 and confer 40 percent of all STEM degrees while also providing African American students  
19 with a nurturing environment to explore their collective identities and cultures; and

20 WHEREAS, there are many notable HBCU alumni, including United States Senator Raphael  
21 Warnock (Morehouse College); five members of Georgia's Congressional Delegation: United  
22 States House representatives Sanford Bishop Jr. (Morehouse College), Hank Johnson (Clark  
23 College/Clark Atlanta University), Lucy McBath (Virginia State University), David Scott  
24 (Florida A&M University), and Nikema Williams (Talladega College); many members of  
25 the Georgia General Assembly; and countless other influential leaders and innovators across  
26 all fields; and

27 WHEREAS, the economic impact of HBCUs in Georgia and across the country continues  
28 to climb, generating more than \$1.3 billion in total impact to Georgia's economy; and

29 WHEREAS, HBCUs will continue to make an impact for generations to come by playing an  
30 important role with regard to access, education, research, and service in its empowerment of  
31 the next generation of Black leaders.

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

33 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee  
34 on Excellence, Innovation, and Technology at Historically Black Colleges and  
35 Universities.

36 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the  
37 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, at least three of whom shall be

38 from the minority caucus. The President shall designate one of such members as  
39 chairperson of the committee.

40 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
41 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
42 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall  
43 be authorized to request the assistance of HBCUs located in Georgia, the University  
44 System of Georgia, and other similar experts in the area to assist the committee in its  
45 study.

46 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee  
47 may conduct meetings at such places, including, but not limited to, Atlanta, Savannah,  
48 and Albany, and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to  
49 exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives  
50 and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

54 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
55 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
56 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
57 appropriated to the Senate.

58 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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