

Senate Resolution 650

By: Senators Dugan of the 30th, Tillery of the 19th, Payne of the 54th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Gooch of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee to Review Education Funding Mechanisms; and for
- 2 other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, the state funding for the operation of Georgia's public schools is based on the
- 4 Quality Basic Education Formula, which was established in 1985; and

- 5 WHEREAS, the formula calculates funding to local school systems based generally on
- 6 student counts and type of program; and

- 7 WHEREAS, it is the stated policy of the State of Georgia to ensure that every public school
- 8 student is educated in a facility which is structurally sound, well maintained, and has
- 9 adequate space and equipment to meet each student's instructional needs; and

- 10 WHEREAS, to accomplish this policy, the law provides for funding to local school systems
- 11 for purposes of capital outlay, including expenditures for the acquisition of fixed assets and
- 12 existing buildings, improvements to sites, construction of new buildings, building additions,
- 13 building upgrades for energy conservation, and new equipment and furnishings for
- 14 educational facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, state funding also includes equalization grants for local school systems in
16 Georgia that have relatively weak local tax bases and are unable to raise revenues sufficient
17 for facility needs and which serve as additional state capital outlay grants for short-term
18 periods, specifically targeted at low-income school systems, in order to help such systems
19 initiate what they have been unable to accomplish with existing revenue sources; and

20 WHEREAS, in the area of curriculum, the state provides for funding for virtual instruction;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, due to the complexity of education funding mechanisms and, specifically, the
23 mechanisms relating to the Quality Basic Education Formula, capital outlay, equalization
24 grants, and virtual schools, it is in the best interests of the citizens of this state to periodically
25 review and evaluate the efficacy and sufficiency of these and other funding mechanisms in
26 meeting the needs of Georgia's schools and students.

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

28 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
29 to Review Education Funding Mechanisms.

30 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
31 Senate as follows: the chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the
32 chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, the chairperson of the Senate
33 Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and two members of the Senate to be appointed
34 by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate one of such five members
35 as chairperson of the committee.

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

39 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
40 may conduct meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
41 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
42 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee may call upon
43 persons with expertise in education funding as deemed necessary by the committee to
44 fully explore the purposes of this resolution.

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

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

48 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
49 of the committee for more than ten days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
50 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
51 appropriated to the Senate.

52 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

- 65 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
66 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
67 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.