

Senate Resolution 953

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Dugan of the 30th, Tippins of the 37th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Harper of the 7th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Evaluating the School Year Calendar of Georgia
2 Public Schools; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the tourism industry is a critical component of Georgia's economic
4 competitiveness as a state; and

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia travel and hospitality industry is the state's fifth largest employer;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the travel and hospitality industry supports more than 445,000 jobs for
8 Georgians; and

9 WHEREAS, the travel industry has a total annual economic impact of \$60.8 billion to the
10 State of Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, travel industry companies directly and indirectly generate over \$3.1 billion in
12 tax revenue for the State of Georgia and local communities; and

13 WHEREAS, the summer travel season is a prime revenue generator for the industry; and

14 WHEREAS, many tourism and hospitality companies hire full and part-time summer
15 workers from Georgia high schools and colleges and provide them with valuable
16 employment experience; and

17 WHEREAS, varied school start dates affect both employment and visitation opportunities;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to fully review and study the issue of varied school
20 start dates to determine its economic impact to the travel and hospitality industry.

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 Evaluating the School Year Calendar of Georgia Public Schools.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 16 members as
26 follows:

- 27 (A) The chairperson of the House Committee on Economic Development;
- 28 (B) The chairperson of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee;
- 29 (C) The chairperson of the House Committee on Education;
- 30 (D) The chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee;
- 31 (E) The chairperson of the House Committee on Appropriations;
- 32 (F) The chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee;
- 33 (G) One senator and one citizen member appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 34 (H) One representative and one citizen member appointed by the Speaker of the House
35 of Representatives;
- 36 (I) One member appointed by the Governor;
- 37 (J) One member of the State Board of Education;
- 38 (K) The deputy commissioner of tourism for the Georgia Department of Economic
39 Development;
- 40 (L) The president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce
41 or his or her designee;
- 42 (M) The director of the Georgia Travel Association; and
- 43 (N) The executive director of the Georgia Association of Convention and Visitors
44 Bureaus.

45 The chairperson of the Senate Economic Development Committee and the chairperson
46 of the House Committee on Economic Development shall serve as cochairpersons of the
47 committee.

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

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

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

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

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

63 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
64 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
65 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
66 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
67 employees.

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

75 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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