

House Resolution 223

By: Representatives Taylor of the 134th, Murphy of the 18th, Hugley of the 133rd, Reed of the 52nd, Squires of the 78th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Public School Size; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, public schools are one of the most valuable and enduring resources in local
3 communities throughout Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, population growth and relocation in Georgia occur at a high rate, requiring the
5 construction and renovation of many public schools; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the construction and renovation of Georgia's public schools involve immense
7 public expenditure; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the average size of Georgia public schools, among the largest in the country,
9 creates a potential impediment to school reform and student achievement; and
- 10 WHEREAS, objective and credible research has firmly established that smaller school size
11 creates increased student achievement, higher student attendance rates, greater parental
12 involvement, more individualized attention for students, an improved school climate, less
13 violence, and lower teacher turnover; and
- 14 WHEREAS, there are successful models both in Georgia and across the country of
15 approaches to creating smaller learning environments in public schools, including school
16 construction incentives, schools-within-schools, community engagement programs, and
17 teacher support systems for students; and
- 18 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study should be undertaken to assist the General Assembly
19 in determining the means for developing smaller school size and smaller learning
20 environments in Georgia's public education system.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Public School Size to be
3 composed of three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and three
4 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each
6 designate a member of the committee as cochairperson of the committee. The
7 cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a comprehensive study
9 of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned in this resolution or related thereto
10 and recommend any actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or
11 appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as
12 it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,
13 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The
14 members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
15 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days
16 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
17 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of
18 Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
19 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
20 made on or before December 31, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on December
21 31, 2001.