

Senate Resolution 293

By: Senator Seabaugh of the 28th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Educational Testing; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia law requires public schools to use nationally norm-referenced tests
3 annually in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies in grades three, five, and eight;
4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, criterion-referenced competency tests are required in English and language arts,
6 mathematics, and reading annually in grades one through eight, and in science and social
7 studies in grades three through eight;
- 8 WHEREAS, writing assessments are administered annually to students in grades three, five,
9 eight, and eleven; and
- 10 WHEREAS, a curriculum based assessment is administered in grade 11 for graduation
11 purposes; and
- 12 WHEREAS, pending legislation would require satisfactory performance on
13 criterion-referenced competency tests in reading for promotion to the fourth grade, in reading
14 and mathematics for promotion to the sixth grade, and in reading and mathematics for
15 promotion to the ninth grade; and
- 16 WHEREAS, some educators, advocates, and parents have expressed doubts regarding the
17 necessity and efficiency of requiring such extensive testing, while others have stated that the
18 entire testing program is needed for accountability; and
- 19 WHEREAS, additional information and study would be helpful in determining whether it is
20 advisable to streamline the testing requirements.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
2 Study Committee on Educational Testing to be composed of five members of the Senate to
3 be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate a
4 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
5 meetings of the committee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
7 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
8 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
9 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
10 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
11 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
12 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
13 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
14 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
15 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its
16 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
17 shall be made on or before December 1, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on
18 December 31, 2001.

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