

## Senate Resolution 355

By: Senators Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup> and Thomas of the 10<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

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