

Senate Resolution 384

By: Senator Ragan of the 11th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the chancellor and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to
2 reverse the decision of the P-16 Council that eliminates technology/career education
3 (vocational) and agricultural courses on the 9-12 list of state funded courses approved by the
4 State Board of Education; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Labor projections indicate that 80 percent of careers in the
6 21st century will require postsecondary education; and

7 WHEREAS, technology/career education programs, which include business/information
8 management, marketing, technology education, health occupations, family and consumer
9 sciences, agriculture, and the trade and industrial areas of study prepare students for careers
10 in expanding industry sectors in Georgia that are critical to the state's economic prosperity;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, in the next decade, technological advances in the workplace; developments in
13 business, governmental, and educational institutions; and changes in the economy will
14 mandate a reshaping of Georgia's labor market. As existing industries reconfigure and new
15 industries emerge, the demand and skill requirements for various occupations will change.
16 Labor-market forecasts underscore the need for technology/career and agriculture programs
17 to support the accelerated demand for a highly skilled workforce; and

18 WHEREAS, it is recognized that a symbiotic relationship exists between the aforementioned
19 industry sectors and the technology/career and agriculture curricula prescribed by the State
20 Board of Education and university system institutions; and

21 WHEREAS, the stated goal of education in Georgia is to prepare all students to take their
22 place in society as young adults, to continue their education, and to enter their chosen career
23 fields; and

1 WHEREAS, over 391,000 students are presently engaged in middle and high school
2 technology/career and agriculture education with a corresponding level participating in
3 career-oriented student organizations; and

4 WHEREAS, Georgia's education reform legislation recognizes that a seamless education
5 (P-16) is essential to realize the potential of an educated populace resulting in sustained
6 economic growth and quality of life; and

7 WHEREAS, the P-16 Council, supported by the chancellor and Board of Regents of the
8 University System of Georgia, has communicated over the past few years, and specifically
9 this year, that technology/career and agriculture courses taught in the secondary curriculum
10 would not be accepted as electives to qualify a student for admission to university system
11 institutions; and

12 WHEREAS, the P-16 Council has further indicated that students who wish to pursue a
13 baccalaureate degree after graduation from high school would not be allowed to take
14 electives in technology/career and agriculture which support their career choices and instead
15 must take other courses, such as fine arts and performing arts; and

16 WHEREAS, this decision by the P-16 Council has been appealed by the business and
17 agriculture communities and other concerned citizens without success over the past few
18 years; and

19 WHEREAS, the State Department of Education recommended that the use of the prescribed
20 list of additional academic units be discontinued and that any course on the 9-12 list of state
21 funded courses (as specified in Rule 160-4-2-.03 of the State Department of Education) be
22 allowed to count as an elective as appropriate to each student's high school program of study;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the P-16 Council has not accepted recommendations from the State Department
25 of Education, the business and agriculture communities, and other concerned citizens
26 regarding courses, except for fine arts and performing arts courses, to be added to the list of
27 academic units required for admission to public colleges and universities in the State of
28 Georgia, an action that appears to refute the concept of a seamless education; and

29 WHEREAS, high school students involved in technology/career and agriculture programs
30 have produced test scores in science and math above the state average according to the

1 Georgia *High Schools That Work* assessment; and

2 WHEREAS, the P-16 decision has already negatively impacted student enrollment in high
3 school technology/career and agriculture programs and related college programs; and

4 WHEREAS, the P-16 decision is having and will continue to have a negative impact on
5 students seeking a dual Technology/Career Education and College Prep diploma.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
7 strongly advise the chancellor and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
8 to reverse the decision of the P-16 Council to prescribe a list of additional academic units that
9 limits technology/career and agriculture courses on the 9-12 list of state-funded courses
10 approved by the State Board of Education.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chancellor and members of the Board of Regents of
12 the University System of Georgia formally respond to the members of the Senate of Georgia
13 as to the correction of the problem presented in this resolution.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
15 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the chancellor and each member of the
16 Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.