

Senate Resolution 252

By: Senators Thomas of the 10th, Butler of the 55th, Walker of the 22nd, Gillis of the 20th, Stokes of the 43rd and others

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Physical Activity in Georgia Schools; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is concerned with the increasing incidence of obesity,
4 the rate of illness connected with this problem, and the resulting impact on the health of the
5 citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, the obesity incidence rate in Georgia has more than doubled over the past
7 decade; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's mortality rate from cardiovascular disease is 10 percent higher than
9 the nation's rate for the same disease; and

10 WHEREAS, incidence of chronic diseases linked to sedentary lifestyles such as
11 cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes (formerly known as "adult-onset diabetes" and
12 now classified as an epidemic in American children) has risen in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, 20 percent of American children suffer from obesity; and

14 WHEREAS, current school curriculum standards have caused a reduction in the amount of
15 time previously designated for physical education and undirected physical activity (recess)
16 in schools; and

17 WHEREAS, there is evidence which shows that replacing physical activity with academic
18 work does not result in an overall increase in academic performance; and

19 WHEREAS, physical activity is shown to benefit mental health by increasing self-esteem
20 while decreasing the severity of depression.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Physical Activity in Georgia
3 Schools to be composed of three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of
4 the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Governor shall designate a member of the
6 committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
7 committee. In addition to the legislative membership of the committee, there shall be an
8 advisory membership of the committee composed of a representative from each of the
9 following: Georgia Dietetic Association; Georgia Association of Education Leaders;
10 Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance; Georgia Parent
11 Teacher Association; Georgia Coalition for Physical Activity and Nutrition; Georgia Nurses
12 Association; Georgia Partnership for School Health; Georgia Chapter of the American Heart
13 Association; Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Georgia Department
14 of Human Resources, Division of Public Health–Chronic Disease Prevention and Health
15 Promotion Branch; and Georgia Department of Education.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
17 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
18 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
19 of this resolution including, without limitation, a study of opportunities to increase physical
20 activity in the school setting and the conditions, needs, issues, and problems related thereto.
21 The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for
22 legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more
23 than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the
24 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate and House
25 of Representatives. No allowance shall be paid for other members of the committee. In the
26 event the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
27 for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2001.
28 The committee shall stand abolished on December 15, 2001.