

Senate Resolution 220

By: Senators Hamrick of the 30th, Hill of the 4th and Johnson of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Improvement of the HOPE Scholarship Joint Study Commission; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, more than 675,000 Georgians have received HOPE scholarships totaling more
4 than \$1.8 billion; and

5 WHEREAS, HOPE scholarships are funded by proceeds from the Georgia Lottery for
6 Education; and

7 WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly want to assure the continuing and future
8 availability of sufficient funds for HOPE scholarships.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 GEORGIA that there is created the Improvement of the HOPE Scholarship Joint Study
11 Commission to be composed of 20 members. The Senate Committee on Assignments shall
12 appoint four members of the Senate as members of the commission and shall designate one
13 of such members as cochairperson. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
14 appoint four members of the House of Representatives as members of the commission and
15 shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. The Governor shall appoint six
16 members of the commission who shall include two members with expertise relating to the
17 HOPE scholarship program, one student attending a public college or university, one student
18 attending a private college or university, one parent of a student attending a public college
19 or university, and one parent of a student attending a private college or university. The
20 director of the Georgia Lottery Corporation, the director of the Georgia Student Finance
21 Commission, the chancellor of the board of regents, the president of the Private and
22 Independent College Association, the executive director of the Department of Technical and
23 Adult Education, and the director of the Office of School Readiness shall also serve. The
24 cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the commission.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the
2 conditions, needs, and issues mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
3 or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate to improve the HOPE
4 scholarship program for the future. The commission may conduct such meetings at such
5 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
6 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
7 of this resolution. The legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances
8 provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Citizen
9 members shall receive a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b)
10 of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated as well as the mileage
11 or transportation allowance authorized for state employees. Members of the commission
12 who are state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall receive no
13 compensation for their services on the commission, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses
14 incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members for the commission in the
15 same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or
16 employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials,
17 other than legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to
18 or otherwise available to their respective departments. The Georgia Student Finance
19 Commission shall provide clerical and staff support to the commission. Employees of the
20 Georgia Student Finance Commission who provide services to the commission shall receive
21 no additional compensation for their services to the commission, but they shall be reimbursed
22 for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties for the commission in the
23 same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state employees. All
24 other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
25 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances
26 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the commission for
27 more than ten days unless additional days are authorized. In the event the commission makes
28 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if
29 any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2003. The commission shall stand
30 abolished on December 31, 2003.