

House Resolution 601

By: Representatives Jackson of the 124th, Post 1, and Bordeaux of the 125th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to expand its teacher
2 education program; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, each year in Georgia the demand grows for qualified teachers as the population
4 expands and challenges the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to increase
5 the supply of quality teachers throughout the state; and

6 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has encouraged all institutions with teacher education
7 programs to implement aggressive recruitment policies to increase the number and raise the
8 caliber and diversity of teacher candidates in order to balance supply and demand; and

9 WHEREAS, despite efforts to recruit and retain minority teachers, Georgia, like most other
10 states in the region, has a smaller percentage of minority teachers than they did a decade ago
11 and the overwhelming majority of teacher education graduates are white females; and

12 WHEREAS, the teacher shortage in Georgia is further compounded by teacher turnover in
13 the first few years of teaching and the absence of mentor programs in the early years; and

14 WHEREAS, the establishment of a teacher education program at Savannah State University
15 would reduce the shortage of educators in that section of the state and significantly increase
16 the diversity of classroom teachers in Georgia.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 GEORGIA that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia is urged to expand
19 its teacher education program to include a degree program at Savannah State University.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
21 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Chancellor Meredith.