

## House Resolution 61

By: Representative Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the State Board of Education and the State School Superintendent to revise Georgia's  
2 accountability plan to include student performance in science in elementary schools; and for  
3 other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended in 2001,  
5 requires states requesting federal funds for education to submit a state accountability plan to  
6 the United States Department of Education for approval; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education has approved Georgia's plan and  
8 subsequent amendments to the plan; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the accountability plan establishes academic standards and includes testing  
10 requirements to measure whether student achievement in each local public school is making  
11 adequate yearly progress; and
- 12 WHEREAS, students in local schools that fail to achieve adequate yearly progress may be  
13 eligible to receive supplemental services, such as tutoring or remedial instruction, and may  
14 be eligible to transfer to a local public school that is achieving adequate yearly progress; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Georgia elementary schools test students in reading, English/language arts,  
16 math, social studies, and science with criterion-referenced tests designed to measure whether  
17 the students are learning the state curriculum for these subjects; and
- 18 WHEREAS, although elementary students are tested in science, adequate yearly progress is  
19 measured only by student performance on reading, English/language arts, and math; and
- 20 WHEREAS, high school students are tested on science for the high school graduation test,  
21 and many have not performed well in science and are in danger of completing high school  
22 without graduating because of inadequate performance in science; and

1 WHEREAS, an understanding of the scientific method and knowledge of scientific facts and  
2 principles are increasingly vital in our complex world that relies more and more on  
3 technology; and

4 WHEREAS, in our global economy, Georgia's citizens compete for jobs with other potential  
5 employees worldwide, and many of the well-paying jobs of the future will require a scientific  
6 education; and

7 WHEREAS, revising Georgia's plan to require measuring student achievement in science  
8 in elementary school would appropriately emphasize the importance of science and lead to  
9 improvement in elementary instruction, providing students with better preparation for high  
10 school instruction in science and enhancing their opportunities to graduate from high school.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
12 the members of this body urge the State Board of Education and the State School  
13 Superintendent to amend Georgia's accountability plan to measure adequate yearly progress  
14 in elementary students to include science.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
16 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the State Board of Education  
17 and the State School Superintendent.