

House Resolution 60

By: Representative Ashe of the 56th

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 social studies in elementary schools;
3 and for 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 social studies, adequate yearly
19 progress is measured only by student performance on reading, English/language arts, and
20 math; and

1 WHEREAS, social studies encompass instruction in history, civics, and government that is
2 vital to educating students to become informed citizens, capable of exercising good judgment
3 in voting and participating in our democracy; and

4 WHEREAS, high school students are tested on social studies for the high school graduation
5 test, and many have not performed well in social studies and are in danger of completing
6 high school without graduating because of inadequate performance in social studies; and

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

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

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