

Senate Resolution 52

By: Senators Bulloch of the 11th, Mullis of the 53rd, Kemp of the 46th, Carter of the 13th, Cagle of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Agricultural Education Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, agriculture is Georgia's largest industry and Georgia's agribusiness sector
3 contributes over \$57 billion of annual economic output, which is about 16 percent of the
4 state's total annual economic output; and

5 WHEREAS, a Georgia Agribusiness Council study has found that one in every five
6 Georgians works in an agriculturally related sector of the state's economy; and

7 WHEREAS, there is a need to develop agricultural education instructional standards that are
8 integrated within current academic content standards; and

9 WHEREAS, cross-curricula instruction at all grade levels will enhance student achievement
10 in core academic subjects; and

11 WHEREAS, agricultural education of our young people in their middle and high school years
12 plays an integral part in strengthening and enhancing the vital role of agriculture in our
13 economy and way of life; and

14 WHEREAS, all students need to understand the following:

15 Grade Level 5

16 The importance of agriculture

17 The role of science in agriculture

18 The origin of food and fiber

19 The technology related to agriculture

20 Grade Level 8

21 Society's standard of living in relation to agriculture

22 How agricultural science has recognized various soil types

- 1 Agriculture systems' use of natural and human resources
- 2 The improvement of agricultural production through technology
- 3 Career opportunities in agriculture

- 4 Grade Level 12
- 5 The importance of agriculture to society
- 6 The influence of agricultural science on farming practices
- 7 The function of the components of the food/fiber system
- 8 Efforts of efficiency in agriculture through technology
- 9 Management practices in agricultural businesses
- 10 Agricultural science and its influence on biotechnology
- 11 Social, political, and economic factors that affect agriculture
- 12 The relationship of research and development activities in agriculture; and

13 WHEREAS, the intent of this resolution is to provide direction to develop instructional
14 strategies to teach the above standards and to integrate them into a broad range of academic
15 subject areas, to provide a stronger career preparation program to meet the demands of a
16 dynamic and competitive agriculture industry, and to provide for a better informed citizenry;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, existing programs in this area, including among others the Young Farmer
19 Program, food processing facilities, youth camps, extended day/year, and area teacher and
20 industry certification, have done much to advance this cause but other improvements may
21 be attainable; and

22 WHEREAS, there has been no formal study by the General Assembly in recent years of
23 issues relating to agricultural education; and

24 WHEREAS, it would be of benefit to the General Assembly to promptly complete a study
25 with respect to what improvements are needed and can be attained in this essential area,
26 including a study with respect to the development of nonmandatory instructional standards
27 for the integration of agricultural education into elementary, middle, and secondary schools'
28 programs of study for public schools in Georgia and the development of a K-12 Agricultural
29 Education Strategic Plan; and

1 WHEREAS, the study will provide direction and oversight for the development and
2 implementation of an action plan for the delivery of agricultural education and its related
3 programs.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Agricultural Education Study Committee to be
6 composed of three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
7 of the House of Representatives; three members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate
8 Committee on Assignments; two persons knowledgeable in the area of agricultural education
9 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; two persons knowledgeable
10 in the area of agricultural education to be appointed by the Senate Committee on
11 Assignments; and five persons knowledgeable in the area of agricultural education to be
12 appointed by the Governor. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a
13 member of the House and the Senate Committee on Assignments shall designate a member
14 of the Senate who shall serve as cochairpersons of the committee. The committee shall meet
15 at the call of the cochairpersons.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
17 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
18 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. As a minimum the
19 committee shall provide recommendations for the following:

- 20 1. A plan to provide for a state-wide Agriculture Learning Center Model to be developed
21 at local levels;
- 22 2. Program-standard approval for all related appropriations, such as Young Farmer,
23 extended day/year, youth camps, food processing, and area teacher and industry
24 certification;
- 25 3. New program criteria available for funding;
- 26 4. Recommendations to the Governor and legislative bodies for appropriations and
27 legislative acts to enhance the delivery of agricultural education;
- 28 5. The development and review of an annual report and evaluation for the agricultural
29 education program.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
31 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
32 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
33 of this resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances
34 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the

1 same for not more than ten days unless additional days are authorized. The other members
2 of the committee shall serve without compensation. The funds necessary to carry out the
3 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of
4 Representatives and Senate.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is directed to make a report of its findings
6 and recommendations not later than the convening of the 2006 regular session, at which time
7 the committee shall be dissolved.