

House Resolution 426

By: Representatives Smith of the 113th, Hembree of the 67th, Cheokas of the 134th, Harbin of the 118th, Floyd of the 147th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Higher Education Finance and Formula Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Department
4 of Technical and Adult Education provide valuable services to the State of Georgia by
5 providing education and training necessary to enhance job skills; and

6 WHEREAS, a strong system of higher education enhances Georgia's economy; and

7 WHEREAS, a number of issues and concerns related to the financing of the Board of
8 Regents of the University System of Georgia have been raised during the recent sessions of
9 the General Assembly; and

10 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia receives a majority
11 of its funding through a funding formula adopted in 1982 with no comprehensive review or
12 update in the 23 years since; and

13 WHEREAS, the funding formula adopted for the Department of Technical and Adult
14 Education in 2001 was modeled on the Board of Regents of the University System of
15 Georgia formula and may also need comprehensive review and updating; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Department
18 of Technical and Adult Education have been impacted by fluctuations in the economy and
19 resulting reductions in funding; and

20 WHEREAS, a number of individuals have expressed an interest in including a
21 performance-based component within the financing methodology for both the Board of
22 Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Department of Technical and Adult
23 Education to better link resources provided to outcomes; and

1 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Department
2 of Technical and Adult Education comprise a significant portion of state bond financing in
3 any given fiscal year; and

4 WHEREAS, many of these issues and concerns warrant further study during the interim
5 between the 2007 and 2008 regular sessions of the General Assembly.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
7 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Higher Education Finance and Formula Study
8 Committee to be composed of three members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
9 of Representatives and three members to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member and the President of the
11 Senate shall designate a member to serve as co-chairpersons of the committee. The
12 committee shall meet at the call of the co-chairpersons.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
14 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
15 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. As a minimum the
16 committee shall:

- 17 (1) Conduct a review of the current financing of the Board of Regents of the University
18 System of Georgia and the Department of Technical and Adult Education to include an
19 examination of budgeted revenues and expenditures;
- 20 (2) Recommend revisions to the current funding formula used in calculating funding
21 needs for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia;
- 22 (3) Recommend revisions to the current funding formula used in calculating funding
23 needs for the Department of Technical and Adult Education;
- 24 (4) Evaluate alternatives for a performance-based funding component for potential use
25 as a component of the financing methodology for both the Board of Regents of the
26 University System of Georgia and the Department of Technical and Adult Education;
- 27 (5) Review capital outlay projections and prioritization methodology for the Board of
28 Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Department of Technical and Adult
29 Education; and
- 30 (6) Develop, as needed, a prioritized implementation schedule for any proposed changes
31 in financing for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the
32 Department of Technical and Adult Education.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct such meetings at such
2 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
3 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
4 of this resolution. The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances
5 provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The funds
6 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
7 to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The expenses and allowances authorized by
8 this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days
9 unless additional days are authorized.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is directed to make a report of its findings
11 and recommendations not later than December 1, 2007, at which time the committee shall
12 be dissolved.