

Senate Resolution 483

By: Senator Harp of the 29th

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the effective teaching of social studies in Georgia's public schools and urging
2 the State Board of Education and each local board of education in this state to ensure that
3 certain tenets for effective social studies teaching and learning are followed; and for other
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, because of the broad nature of its content, social studies has always been a
6 challenging discipline to teach and learn; and

7 WHEREAS, social studies includes the diverse subjects of geography, history, political
8 science (civics and government), economics, anthropology, archaeology, law, philosophy,
9 psychology, religion, and sociology; and

10 WHEREAS, identifying the most critical topics and concepts within such topics and the
11 appropriate place to teach such topics has been an ongoing struggle for educators from the
12 inception of social studies as a discipline; and

13 WHEREAS, the federal No Child Left Behind Act, enacted in 2002, did not specifically
14 mention social studies, except in its requirements for highly qualified teachers, and it did not
15 require a regular assessment in social studies, and with increased pressure to show
16 improvement in reading and mathematics scores, social studies is being perceived as a less
17 important subject, as demonstrated by a 2005 study of Georgia elementary school teachers;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Georgia Council for Social Studies asserts that, given current world affairs,
20 the need for social studies instruction is greater than ever before; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Council for Social Studies advocates these tenets for effective
22 social studies teaching and learning:

23 1. Treat social studies in all respects as an important core discipline;

- 1 2. Devote time each day to social studies instruction;
- 2 3. Teach social studies to all students at all grade levels;
- 3 4. Give adequate support to teachers to provide effective social studies instruction; and
- 4 5. Prepare teachers adequately both in sufficient content and appropriate pedagogical
- 5 practices to teach social studies; and

6 WHEREAS, when social studies is taught and taught well, our students will be prepared to
7 participate actively and effectively as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in
8 an interdependent world.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
10 encourage the effective teaching of social studies in Georgia's public schools and urge the
11 State Board of Education and each local board of education in this state to ensure that the
12 tenets for effective social studies teaching and learning as outlined herein are followed.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
14 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the State Board of Education and to each
15 local board of education in this state.