

## House Resolution 1040

By: Representatives Day of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, and Horne of the 71<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Emergency Response and Preparedness Curriculum  
2 for Georgia High Schools; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, today's students are tomorrow's leaders and the future protectors of America's  
4 freedom; and

5 WHEREAS, in order to better serve as effective national and local leaders and ensure the  
6 safety and security of our country, high school students should be provided a basic  
7 understanding of the major threats facing the nation today, including terrorism, bioterrorism,  
8 and other forms of large-scale public safety threats and emergencies caused by natural or  
9 manmade disaster; and

10 WHEREAS, a basic understanding of national security threats includes both a historical  
11 perspective as well as an up-to-date situational analysis, and students should be instructed  
12 regarding such issues as the historical development of terrorism, contributing factors to the  
13 growth of terrorism, and prior responses to large-scale public safety threats; as for the  
14 current status of serious large-scale public safety threats, students should be provided a basic  
15 understanding of operational response policies and plans, available response resources, and  
16 current risk assessments of the potentially greatest threats posed against American citizens;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, terrorism is becoming an increasingly difficult problem in the world of the early  
19 twenty-first century, and our children are affected, directly and indirectly, by both massive  
20 and small-scale acts of terrorism; and

21 WHEREAS, to preserve and strengthen the foundations of freedom, our children should be  
22 provided a basis from which to research, openly debate, and ultimately respond to a variety  
23 of social, cultural, and political issues in both the domestic and international spheres, and

1 such research, debate, and preparedness necessarily includes education regarding the history  
2 and modern day preparedness related to terrorism and large-scale public safety threats; and

3 WHEREAS, despite the significance of terrorism and large-scale emergencies facing this  
4 state and nation, schools do not typically provide, either through history, social studies, or  
5 health classes, any curriculum relating to these historical and social occurrences; and

6 WHEREAS, a quality education in Georgia should include a historical understanding of  
7 serious public safety threats and prepare students to evaluate these important life-threatening  
8 issues; and

9 WHEREAS, currently there are no standardized guidelines for emergency response and  
10 preparedness curricula.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Emergency Response and  
13 Preparedness Curriculum for Georgia High Schools to be composed of three members of the  
14 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
15 three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and three  
16 members of the executive branch to be appointed by the Governor. Additional members of  
17 the committee shall include the Chairpersons for the House Public Safety and Homeland  
18 Security and the House Education standing committees and the Chairpersons for the Senate  
19 Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Senate Education and Youth standing  
20 committees. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the  
21 House and the President of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate who shall serve  
22 as cochairpersons of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the  
23 cochairpersons. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times  
24 as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its  
25 powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.  
26 The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code  
27 Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Funds necessary to carry out the  
28 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate and the  
29 House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution shall  
30 not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional  
31 days are authorized.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the need for  
2 emergency response and preparedness curriculum for Georgia high schools. The study shall  
3 include recommendations for developing a model curriculum for all high schools receiving  
4 state funds, as well as guidelines for implementing the curriculum in Georgia's high schools.  
5 In fulfilling its duties, the committee shall consult with such individuals and organizations  
6 as it deems appropriate.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a study report, containing findings and  
8 recommendations for emergency response and preparedness curriculum for Georgia high  
9 schools, including suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, as well as pilot project  
10 guidelines, shall be issued on or before December 1, 2008. The committee shall stand  
11 abolished on January 1, 2009.