

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HR 1040:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Emergency Response and Preparedness Curriculum
2 for Georgia 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, school students should be provided a basic understanding
7 of the major threats facing the nation today, including terrorism, bioterrorism, and other
8 forms of large-scale public safety threats and emergencies caused by natural or manmade
9 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 current
14 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 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 the Senate Education and Youth standing committees. The Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House and the President of the
21 Senate shall designate a member of the Senate who shall serve as cochairpersons of the
22 committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons. The committee may
23 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
24 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
25 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
26 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
27 Code of Georgia Annotated. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution
28 shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives. The
29 expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
30 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the need for
32 emergency response and preparedness curriculum for Georgia schools. The study shall

1 include recommendations for developing a model curriculum for all schools receiving state
2 funds, as well as guidelines for implementing the curriculum in Georgia schools. In fulfilling
3 its duties, the committee shall consult with such individuals and organizations as it deems
4 appropriate.

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