

House Resolution 1610

By: Representative Day of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
12 there is created the House Study Committee on Emergency Response and Preparedness
13 Curriculum for Georgia High Schools to be composed of five members of the House of
14 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the committee who
16 shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the
17 chairperson. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as
18 it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,
19 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The
20 legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code
21 Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Funds necessary to carry out the
22 provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of
23 Representatives. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be
24 received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
25 authorized.

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

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