

Senate Resolution 1213

By: Senators Moody of the 56th, Hill of the 4th and Weber of the 40th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Education Funding Mechanisms Review Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the state funding for the operation of Georgia's public schools is based on the
4 Quality Basic Education Formula, which was established in 1985; and

5 WHEREAS, the formula calculates funding to local school systems based generally on
6 student counts and type of program; and

7 WHEREAS, it is the stated policy of the State of Georgia to ensure that every public school
8 student is educated in a facility which is structurally sound, well maintained, and has
9 adequate space and equipment to meet each student's instructional needs; and

10 WHEREAS, to accomplish this policy, the law provides for funding to local school systems
11 for purposes of capital outlay, including expenditures for the acquisition of fixed assets and
12 existing buildings, improvements to sites, construction of new buildings, building additions,
13 building upgrades for energy conservation, and new equipment and furnishings for
14 educational facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, state funding also includes equalization grants for local school systems in
16 Georgia which have relatively weak local tax bases and are unable to raise revenues
17 sufficient for facility needs and which serve as additional state capital outlay grants for
18 short-term periods, specifically targeted at low-income school systems, in order to help such
19 systems initiate what they have been unable to accomplish with existing revenue sources; and

20 WHEREAS, in the area of curriculum, the state provides for funding for virtual courses,
21 including courses through the Georgia Virtual School established by the State Board of
22 Education and courses created through charter schools such as the Georgia Virtual Academy;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, due to the complexity of education funding mechanisms and, specifically, the
2 mechanisms relating to the Quality Basic Education Formula, capital outlay, equalization
3 grants, and virtual schools, it is in the best interests of the citizens of this state to periodically
4 review and evaluate the efficacy and sufficiency of these and other funding mechanisms in
5 meeting the needs of Georgia's schools and students.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
7 Education Funding Mechanisms Review Study Committee to be composed of five members
8 of the Senate as follows: the chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the
9 chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, the chairperson of the Senate
10 Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and two members of the Senate to be appointed
11 by the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall designate one of the appointees
12 to serve as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the
13 committee.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
15 needs, issues, problems, and opportunities as mentioned above or related thereto and
16 recommend any action or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The
17 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
18 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
19 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee may
20 call upon persons with expertise in education funding as deemed necessary by the committee
21 to fully explore the purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive
22 the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall
23 receive the same for not more than ten days unless additional days are authorized. The funds
24 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
25 appropriated to the Senate. In the event that the committee makes a report of its findings and
26 recommendations with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made
27 on or before December 31, 2008. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31,
28 2008.