

Senate Resolution 1085

By: Senators Buckner of the 44th, Sims of the 12th, Tate of the 38th, Jackson of the 24th, James of the 35th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia School Boards Association to take the lead in recommending legislation
2 to address local school board governance issues; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, under the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the provision of an adequate
4 public education for the citizens is a primary obligation of the State of Georgia, and nothing
5 is more important to the future of our state than the education of our young people; and

6 WHEREAS, the state Constitution also provides that school systems shall be under the
7 management and control of local boards of education, which are elected bodies; and

8 WHEREAS, all public officers take a solemn oath to support the Constitutions of the United
9 States and this state, and local school boards are bound to uphold the oath taken by their
10 members and make their first and overarching priority the education and well-being of the
11 students of their school system; and

12 WHEREAS, local school boards play a vital role in school performance and establish
13 policies that directly affect how Georgia's students compete in the global marketplace, and
14 their work is complex, technical, and deserving of great respect in appreciation of their long
15 hours, hard work, and dedication; and

16 WHEREAS, a school system's accreditation is extremely important to its students, citizens,
17 and community, and loss of such accreditation has the grievous and unfortunate effect of
18 causing its students to be ineligible for HOPE scholarships, which, oftentimes, directly
19 impacts a student's future; and

20 WHEREAS, such loss of accreditation also has the effect of harming the community as a
21 whole as it acts as a deterrent for new residents to move in to the area and spawns movement
22 by existing residents out of the county or city, both of which directly impact property values
23 and tax revenues; and

24 WHEREAS, one school system in Georgia has lost its accreditation in recent years, and other
25 school systems are currently on probation status and at risk of losing accreditation; and

26 WHEREAS, it is imperative that local school board governance in Georgia be reviewed to
27 study the best practices of school boards across the nation and to recommend ways to put
28 those ideas to work in Georgia to prevent the loss of accreditation of any other local school
29 systems in Georgia; and

30 WHEREAS, it cannot be overstated how important and urgent it is to identify and address
31 the shortcomings in current local school board governance requirements and practices in
32 Georgia; and

33 WHEREAS, the stated mission of the Georgia School Boards Association is to ensure
34 excellence in the governance of local school systems by providing leadership, advocacy, and
35 services and by representing the collective resolve of Georgia's 180 elected boards of
36 education; and

37 WHEREAS, because of its role and mission, the Georgia School Boards Association is
38 uniquely positioned and eminently qualified to assess and recommend insightful changes and
39 improvements to local school board governance in Georgia.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
41 urge the Georgia School Boards Association to take the lead in recommending legislation to
42 address local school board governance issues.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
44 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia School Boards Association.