

Senate Resolution 1444

By: Senators Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Weber of the 40th, Henson of the 41st and Fort of the 39th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Reform of Teachers/Administrators' Rights and
2 Responsibilities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, teachers are the cornerstone of a child's education in our public school system;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the interests of effectively educating students by good teachers must be weighed
6 against the ability to discipline or terminate ineffective or insubordinate teachers if necessary;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, under current law (O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-940 and 20-2-942) teachers are
9 afforded certain procedural rights and protections relating to termination or suspension of a
10 contract of employment and disciplinary matters; and

11 WHEREAS, in recent years, various legislation has been introduced to establish a Bill of
12 Rights for teachers in order to establish certain protections for teachers relating to control
13 over their classrooms, procedural requirements for disciplinary hearings, and other rights,
14 none of which such legislation has been enacted into law to date; and

15 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to examine current laws relating to fair dismissal rights,
16 discipline of teachers, a local superintendent's ability to temporarily suspend a teacher, and
17 rights of teachers, including the right to remove a student from a classroom, right to file a
18 grievance, right to evaluate administrators, right to participate in an annual evaluation; and
19 due process rights relating to disciplinary hearings to determine whether legislative changes
20 should be recommended to clarify, revise, or expand such rights and procedural
21 requirements.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
23 Study Committee on Reform of Teachers/Administrators' Rights and Responsibilities to be

24 composed of five members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The
25 President of the Senate shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the
26 committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the above
28 issues and recommend any actions or legislation that the committee deems necessary or
29 appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as
30 it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,
31 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The
32 members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members
33 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days
34 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
35 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event that the
36 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed
37 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2010. The
38 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2010.