

Senate Resolution 464

By: Senator Weber of the 40th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and Georgia's private  
2 colleges and universities to increase teacher production to meet the state's need for K-12  
3 teachers; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Joint Study Committee on Teacher Training and Certification found that  
5 Georgia faces a significant teacher shortage, particularly in high-need fields such as math,  
6 science, and special education, and that Georgia also faces a 9 percent attrition rate for  
7 teachers each year; and

8 WHEREAS, the study committee learned that the public and private colleges and universities  
9 in this state do not produce enough teachers to meet the needs of the state's public school  
10 systems and that, because of this shortage, Georgia must rely on recruiting teachers from  
11 outside of the state; and

12 WHEREAS, the data show that teachers prepared by out-of-state colleges and universities  
13 have a lower retention rate than teachers prepared by Georgia colleges and universities; and

14 WHEREAS, to address this shortfall, the Board of Regents of the University System of  
15 Georgia has established the "20,000 by 2020" initiative to meet 80 percent of the state's need  
16 for teachers within the next 12 years, a significant increase from the current level of 30  
17 percent; and

18 WHEREAS, the study committee recommended that private colleges and universities, which  
19 currently produce approximately 20 percent of all new teachers prepared by Georgia  
20 institutions of higher learning, give strong consideration to increasing the number of teacher  
21 preparation programs offered, particularly in math, science, and special education; and

22 WHEREAS, the study committee also recommended adding teacher preparation programs  
23 at additional institutions, enhancing the current teacher preparation process, and  
24 implementing innovative initiatives such as the collaborative effort between five institutions  
25 of the University System of Georgia, the Board of Regents of the University System of  
26 Georgia, and the Professional Standards Commission to provide online Master of Arts in  
27 Teaching programs beginning in January, 2009; and

28 WHEREAS, the study committee also recommended that the public and private colleges and  
29 universities address concerns about five-year bachelor's level teacher preparation programs  
30 in light of current teacher shortages and the University System of Georgia's 2020 initiative.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
32 GEORGIA that this body urges the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia  
33 and Georgia's private colleges and universities to increase teacher production to meet the  
34 state's need for K-12 teachers.