

Senate Resolution 464

By: Senator Weber of the 40th

ADOPTED SENATE

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.