

Senate Resolution 140

By: Senators Jones of the 10th and Harp of the 29th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Acknowledging the importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and
2 creating a Senate Study Committee on Consolidation of Institutions of Higher Education; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, recent proposals calling for the Board of Regents of the University System of
5 Georgia to merge Savannah State University with Armstrong Atlantic State University and
6 Albany State University with Darton College have been met with public criticism and outcry;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, HBCUs provide an environment in which traditionally African American
9 students thrive and have access to a high quality education; and

10 WHEREAS, HBCUs are a source of accomplishment and great pride for the community as
11 well as the entire nation; and

12 WHEREAS, the importance of HBCUs extends beyond the students they educate, as they
13 contribute substantially to economic growth and continually work to improve the economic
14 health of the neighborhoods surrounding the school; and

15 WHEREAS, the current economic downturn has opened the discussion on merging four
16 higher education institutions located in close proximity to each other in order to reduce
17 administrative costs and eliminate the duplication of similar services and programs; and

18 WHEREAS, a study of the necessity for consolidating Savannah State University with
19 Armstrong Atlantic State University, Albany State University with Darton College, and other
20 Georgia HBCUs with nearby counterparts and the resulting impact of such mergers would
21 assist this body's future consideration of these issues.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
23 Study Committee on Consolidation of Institutions of Higher Education to be composed of
24 three members of the Senate and four members of the public appointed by the President of
25 the Senate, who shall include one member of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus
26 committee on education. The President of the Senate shall designate the Chairman of the
27 Senate Committee on Higher Education as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson
28 shall call all meetings of the committee.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the issues
30 referred to above. Furthermore, the committee shall recommend any action or legislation
31 which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such
32 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable
33 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
34 objectives and purposes of this resolution. Legislative members of the committee shall
35 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
36 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
37 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The
38 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
39 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
40 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
41 made on or before December 15, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on
42 December 15, 2009.