

Senate Resolution 627

By: Senators Douglas of the 17th, Harp of the 29th, Murphy of the 27th, Rogers of the 21st and Staton of the 18th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 To create the Senate Study Committee on the Merger of Georgia Technical and Two-year
2 Colleges; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in July, 2008, Governor Perdue charged the Tough Choices or Tough Times
4 Working Group with the task of drafting creative and bold recommendations to prepare
5 Georgia's education system for meeting the demands of a global economy; and

6 WHEREAS, in responding to that charge, the group made several recommendations, among
7 which was the recommendation to create a comprehensive community college system by
8 merging the technical colleges and two-year colleges in Georgia so that there is a seamless
9 entry point for all students and that all duplication of teaching and administrative resources
10 between Technical College System of Georgia and University System of Georgia institutions
11 has been removed; and

12 WHEREAS, this recommendation has far reaching implications for postsecondary education
13 in Georgia and has its share of advocates and opponents, each of whom has concerns which
14 should be fully explored before proceeding with any action with regard to such
15 recommendation; and

16 WHEREAS, providing Georgia students with the best education possible at the lowest cost
17 possible should be the goal of this state.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
19 Study Committee on the Merger of Georgia Technical and Two-year Colleges to be
20 composed of five members of the Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The
21 Lieutenant Governor shall designate a chairperson from among the appointees. The
22 committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
24 needs, issues, and problems as described above and recommend any actions or legislation
25 that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such
26 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable
27 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
28 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the
29 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees from the
30 funds appropriated to the Senate but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
31 additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
32 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee
33 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
34 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2009. The
35 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2009.