

House Resolution 495

By: Representatives Rice of the 51st, Ehrhart of the 36th, Huckaby of the 113th, Walker of the 107th, Cheokas of the 134th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Higher Education Finance Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is continuing to experience difficult economic times and
3 its citizens are seeing escalating costs in virtually every area, especially in higher education
4 costs; and

5 WHEREAS, tuition and fees and other costs have risen dramatically in the University System
6 of Georgia and in the budget requests for funding the University System; and

7 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the funding formula for the University System
8 of Georgia and higher education funding to determine if adjustments are needed to provide
9 a high quality and affordable system of higher education in this state.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that there is
11 created the Joint Higher Education Finance Study Committee to be composed of 14 members
12 to be appointed as follows: five members shall be appointed by the Governor to include a
13 member of the Governor's staff, a representative from the system office of the University
14 System of Georgia, a representative from the Technical College System of Georgia, and two
15 parents of children currently enrolled in an institution of the University System of Georgia;
16 three representatives from the business community, one each appointed by the Governor, the
17 Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; three members of the
18 House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to
19 include the chairperson of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Committee on
20 Appropriations or his or her designee; and three members of the Senate, appointed by the
21 Lieutenant Governor to include the chairperson of the Higher Education Subcommittee of
22 the Senate Appropriations Committee or his or her designee. Members of the committee
23 should have good working knowledge of higher education and higher education finance.
24 Members shall be willing to commit time to actively participate in committee meetings and
25 shall agree to balance the educational needs of children and the resources provided by the

26 citizens of Georgia. The chairpersons of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House
27 Committee on Appropriations and the Higher Education Subcommittee of the Senate
28 Appropriations Committee or their designees shall serve as cochairpersons. The committee
29 may elect other officers as deemed necessary. The cochairpersons may designate and
30 appoint subcommittees from among the membership of the committee as well as appoint
31 other persons to perform such functions as they may determine to be necessary as relevant
32 to and consistent with this resolution. The cochairpersons shall only vote to break a tie. The
33 committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons. The committee shall meet at least
34 quarterly. A quorum for transacting business shall be a majority of the members of the
35 committee.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall evaluate the funding formula and
37 any other program or matter relative to higher education funding in Georgia and shall
38 undertake a comprehensive study and evaluation of the cost and resources needed to educate
39 a child through a review of the core issues relating to higher education financing by
40 evaluating the various components of the funding formula, including salaries and
41 maintenance and operations funds, and determine whether there need to be adjustments. The
42 committee shall have the following powers:

- 43 (1) To request and receive data from and review the records of appropriate agencies and
44 entities to the greatest extent allowed by state and federal law;
- 45 (2) To accept public or private grants, devises, and bequests; and
- 46 (3) To conduct studies, collect data, or take any other action the committee deems
47 necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct its meetings at such places
49 and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
50 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
51 resolution. Any legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
52 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the O.C.G.A. Citizen members shall receive a daily expense
53 allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the O.C.G.A.
54 as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees. Any
55 members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members, and state
56 employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee, but they shall
57 be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members
58 of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities
59 as state officials or employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses
60 of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall come from funds

61 appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments. All other funds
62 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
63 to the House of Representatives and the Senate.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is directed to make a report of its findings
65 and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor, with suggestions for
66 proposed legislation, if any, not later than December 31, 2011. The committee shall stand
67 abolished on December 31, 2011.