

House Resolution 489 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Thomas of the 100th, Carter of the 175th, Kaiser of the 59th, Coleman of the 97th, Morgan of the 39th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the State Board of Education to revise its professional learning rules, to establish
 2 a Professional Learning Rules Task Force, and to provide written guidance; directing the
 3 Professional Standards Commission to establish certification renewal rules that require the
 4 impact of professional learning on educator performance and student learning and to
 5 establish a task force; directing the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia
 6 Professional Standards Commission to cooperatively develop a course on educator ethics to
 7 include information on the official Georgia Code of Ethics for educators and have as one area
 8 of emphasis best practices for administering state mandated tests; and for other purposes.

9 Part I

10 WHEREAS, the Professional Standards Commission is revising current certification rules
 11 that require the demonstration of the impact of professional learning on educator
 12 performance and student performance, effective July 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-201 of the O.C.G.A. requires all
 14 certificated professional personnel "each calendar year" to participate in continuing education
 15 programs that "focus on improving the skills of certificated personnel that directly relate to
 16 improving student achievement"; and

17 WHEREAS, the most important factor contributing to a student's success in school is the
 18 quality of teaching, and professional learning is the primary means for improving the quality
 19 of teaching; and

20 WHEREAS, all teachers engage in professional learning that is conceived, organized,
 21 managed, and evaluated under the authority of local school boards; and

22 WHEREAS, professional learning is more effective when its conception, organization,
23 management, and evaluation is consistent with research findings that identify practices that
24 improve teachers' instruction; and

25 WHEREAS, implementation of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards adopted
26 by the State Board of Education requires long-term, in-depth, job-embedded professional
27 learning; and

28 WHEREAS, the House Study Committee on Professional Learning concluded that educators
29 need time to improve their knowledge, skills, and dispositions and that such professional
30 learning best occurs in a job-embedded context, with colleagues, sustained over time.

31 Part 2

32 WHEREAS, the goal of professional learning is to improve educational practices that result
33 in higher student achievement; and

34 WHEREAS, efforts to improve student achievement can succeed only by building the
35 capacity of teachers and leaders to improve their practices; and

36 WHEREAS, effective professional learning can be defined as that which results in
37 improvement in educator knowledge and practices, as well as improved student learning
38 outcomes; and

39 WHEREAS, research has shown that well-designed professional learning can improve
40 practice and increase student achievement if it is intensive, ongoing, and connected to
41 practice; is focused on student learning and addresses the teaching of specific curriculum
42 content; is aligned with school improvement priorities and goals; and is used to build strong
43 working relationships among teachers and leaders; and

44 WHEREAS, professional learning should focus on what practices are needed to improve
45 student learning; and

46 WHEREAS, a core expectation of the education profession should be that educators
47 demonstrate improvement over the course of a career; and

48 WHEREAS, Georgia's Race to the Top plan requires the measure of teacher effectiveness
49 and also states that the effectiveness of teachers will be improved through targeted
50 professional learning; and

51 WHEREAS, Georgia's Race to the Top plan states that Georgia will revise professional
52 learning unit (PLU) requirements for recertification so that all professional learning activity
53 undertaken by educators between certificate cycles is sharply aligned with potential
54 weaknesses brought to light by effectiveness measures.

55 Part 3

56 WHEREAS, the House Study Committee on Professional Learning recommended that the
57 Department of Education and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission develop a
58 course on educator ethics with one area of emphasis being best practices for administering
59 state mandated tests; and

60 WHEREAS, the Georgia Code of Ethics for educators defines the professional behavior of
61 educators in Georgia and provides guidance for protecting the health, safety, and general
62 welfare of students and educators and assuring the citizens of Georgia a degree of
63 accountability with the education profession;

64 WHEREAS, an educator shall administer state mandated assessments fairly and ethically;
65 and

66 WHEREAS, reliable and valid student assessment results are integral to the provision of
67 accurate information to develop the overall school improvement plan; and

68 WHEREAS, reliable and valid student assessment results are integral to accurate reporting
69 of student progress to parents; and

70 WHEREAS, reliable and valid student assessment results are integral to determining teacher
71 effectiveness and providing targeted professional learning to support instructional
72 improvement.

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
74 GEORGIA:

75 Part 1

76 **SECTION 1-1.**

77 The State Board of Education shall revise its professional learning rules so it is the
78 responsibility of principals, district leaders, and state leaders to ensure that teachers have
79 opportunities for professional learning that reflect the findings of the House Study
80 Committee on Professional Learning and are consistent with major research findings and best
81 practices regarding professional learning.

82 **SECTION 1-2.**

83 The State Board of Education shall align its rules with the new Professional Standards
84 Commission certification renewal rules requiring the demonstration of the impact of
85 professional learning on educator and student performance when the commission's rules take
86 effect.

87 **SECTION 1-3.**

- 88 (a) The Department of Education shall establish the Professional Learning Rules Task Force
89 for the purposes of reviewing current State Board of Education professional learning rules,
90 reviewing current research regarding professional learning, providing suggestions for
91 revisions to the rules, and providing suggestions for implementation.
- 92 (b) The task force shall be composed of, at a minimum, the following members:
- 93 (1) One representative of the Professional Standards Commission;
 - 94 (2) One representative of the Department of Education;
 - 95 (3) One district level professional learning coordinator;
 - 96 (4) One representative from the central office of the University System of Georgia;
 - 97 (5) One representative from a college of education within the University System of
98 Georgia;
 - 99 (6) One representative from a private college of education in this state;
 - 100 (7) One representative from a regional educational service agency;
 - 101 (8) One representative local school superintendent;
 - 102 (9) One representative public school principal;
 - 103 (10) One representative public school elementary school teacher;
 - 104 (11) One representative public school middle school teacher;
 - 105 (12) One representative public school high school teacher;
 - 106 (13) One representative from the Georgia Staff Development Council, and
 - 107 (14) One representative from Learning Forward (National Staff Development Council).
- 108 (c) The representative from the Department of Education shall serve as chairperson of the
109 task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

110 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

111 **SECTION 1-4.**

112 The task force shall present recommendations for professional learning rules to the State
113 Board of Education no later than July 1, 2013. Recommendations shall be included in
114 revisions to the State Board of Education professional learning rules and shall be adopted on
115 or before June 30, 2015.

116 **SECTION 1-5.**

117 The Department of Education shall provide written guidance aligned to revised State Board
118 of Education professional learning rules.

119 **Part 2**

120 **SECTION 2-1.**

121 The Professional Standards Commission is directed to:

122 (1) Revise its certification renewal rules so that demonstration of the impact of
123 professional learning on educator performance and student performance is required in order
124 for certification to be renewed, effective July, 2015; and

125 (2) Establish a task force to determine the level of evidence necessary for educators to
126 demonstrate the impact of professional learning and how this evidence will be collected
127 and submitted for the purposes of certificate renewal.

128 **Part 3**

129 **SECTION 3-1.**

130 The Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission
131 shall cooperatively develop a course on educator ethics to include information on the official
132 Georgia Code of Ethics for educators and have as one area of emphasis best practices for
133 administering state mandated tests.