

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HR 1162:

## A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia so as to clarify the authority of the  
 2 state to establish state-wide education policy; to restate the authority of the General  
 3 Assembly to create special schools; to authorize the General Assembly to define special  
 4 schools; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for  
 5 other purposes.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

### 7 SECTION 1.

8 Article VIII, Section I of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph I as follows:

9 "Paragraph I. ***Public education; free public education prior to college or postsecondary***  
 10 ***level; support by taxation.*** The provision of an adequate public education for the citizens  
 11 shall be a primary obligation of the State of Georgia. Public education for the citizens prior  
 12 to the college or postsecondary level shall be free and shall be provided for by taxation, and  
 13 the General Assembly may by general law provide for the establishment of education  
 14 policies for such public education. The expense of other public education shall be provided  
 15 for in such manner and in such amount as may be provided by law."

### 16 SECTION 2.

17 Article VIII, Section V of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph I as follows:

18 "Paragraph I. ***School systems continued; consolidation of school systems authorized;***  
 19 ***new independent school systems prohibited.*** Authority is granted to county and area  
 20 boards of education to establish and maintain public schools within their limits; provided,  
 21 however, that the authority provided for in this paragraph shall not diminish any authority  
 22 of the General Assembly otherwise granted under this article, including the authority to  
 23 establish and maintain special schools as provided for in Article VIII, Section V, Paragraph  
 24 VII. Existing county and independent school systems shall be continued, except that the  
 25 General Assembly may provide by law for the consolidation of two or more county school  
 26 systems, independent school systems, portions thereof, or any combination thereof into a

27 single county or area school system under the control and management of a county or area  
 28 board of education, under such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may  
 29 prescribe; but no such consolidation shall become effective until approved by a majority  
 30 of the qualified voters voting thereon in each separate school system proposed to be  
 31 consolidated. No independent school system shall hereafter be established."

32 **SECTION 3.**

33 Article VIII, Section V of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph VII as follows:

34 "Paragraph VII. *Special schools.* (a) The General Assembly may define and provide by  
 35 law for the creation of special schools in such areas as may require them and may provide  
 36 for the participation of local boards of education in the establishment of such schools under  
 37 such terms and conditions as it may provide; but no bonded indebtedness may be incurred  
 38 nor a school tax levied for the support of special schools without the approval of a majority  
 39 of the qualified voters voting thereon in each of the systems affected. Any such special  
 40 schools shall be operated in conformity with regulations of the State Board of Education  
 41 pursuant to provisions of law. Special schools may include charter schools; provided,  
 42 however, that special schools shall only be public schools. The state is authorized to  
 43 expend funds for the support and maintenance of special schools in such amount and  
 44 manner as may be provided by law.

45 (b) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to affect the authority of local boards of  
 46 education or of the state to support and maintain special schools created prior to June 30,  
 47 1983."

48 **SECTION 4.**

49 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as  
 50 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the  
 51 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

52 "( ) YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow state or local

53 ( ) NO approval of public charter schools upon the request of local communities?"

54 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

55 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If

56 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall

57 become a part of the Constitution of this state.