

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to HR 486:

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize any municipality created on
 2 or after January 1, 2005, and any municipality which is contiguous to a municipality created
 3 on or after January 1, 2005, irrespective of whether such municipalities may be in different
 4 counties, to establish individually or collectively by local law an independent school system;
 5 to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for
 6 ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

10 "Paragraph I. *School systems continued; consolidation of school systems authorized;*
 11 *new independent school systems prohibited.* Authority is granted to county and area
 12 boards of education to establish and maintain public schools within their limits; provided,
 13 however, that the authority provided for in this paragraph shall not diminish any authority
 14 of the General Assembly otherwise granted under this article, including the authority to
 15 establish special schools as provided for in Article VIII, Section V, Paragraph VII.
 16 Existing county and independent school systems shall be continued, except that the General
 17 Assembly may provide by law for the consolidation of two or more county school systems,
 18 independent school systems, portions thereof, or any combination thereof into a single
 19 county or area school system under the control and management of a county or area board
 20 of education, under such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may prescribe; but
 21 no such consolidation shall become effective until approved by a majority of the qualified
 22 voters voting thereon in each separate school system proposed to be consolidated. No
 23 independent school system shall hereafter be established; provided, however, that any
 24 municipality created on or after January 1, 2005, and any municipality which is contiguous
 25 to a municipality created on or after January 1, 2005, irrespective of whether such
 26 municipalities may be in different counties, may establish individually or collectively by
 27 local law an independent school system."

28

SECTION 2.

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

32 " YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow any municipality
33 created after 2004 and any adjoining municipality to establish an
34 NO independent school system by local law?"

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

36 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
37 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
38 become a part of the Constitution of this state.