

Senate Resolution 80

By: Senators Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Millar of the 40th, Hill of the 32nd, Jeffares of the 17th,
Watson of the 1st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Demanding revision by the College Board of Advanced Placement U.S. History; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, approximately 14,000 Georgia students take the College Board's Advanced
4 Placement U. S. History (APUSH) course each year; and

5 WHEREAS, the APUSH course has traditionally been designed to present a balanced view
6 of American history and to prepare students for college-level history courses; and

7 WHEREAS, the College Board has recently released a new framework for the APUSH
8 course; and

9 WHEREAS, the new APUSH framework reflects a radically revisionist view of American
10 history that emphasizes negative aspects of our nation's history while omitting or minimizing
11 positive aspects; and

12 WHEREAS, the framework minimizes discussion of America's Founding Fathers, the
13 principles of the Declaration of Independence, the religious influences on our nation's
14 history, and many other critical topics that have long been part of the APUSH course; and

15 WHEREAS, the framework presents a biased and inaccurate view of many important themes
16 and events in American history, including the motivations and actions of seventeenth to
17 nineteenth century settlers, the nature of the American free enterprise system, the course and
18 resolution of the Great Depression, and the development of and victory in the Cold War; and

19 WHEREAS, the framework differs radically from the Georgia Performance Standards for
20 Social Studies; and

21 WHEREAS, despite offering revisions and clarifications to the framework, the College
22 Board has made no substantial changes to the themes and key concepts of the framework,
23 thus requiring all content to be taught in alignment with those themes and concepts; and

24 WHEREAS, the framework describes its detailed requirements as required knowledge for
25 Georgia students; and

26 WHEREAS, to prepare their students for the APUSH examination, Georgia APUSH teachers
27 will have to teach the APUSH required knowledge through the lens of the APUSH themes
28 and concepts, to the detriment of the state mandated Georgia Performance Standards; and

29 WHEREAS, the framework will thus have the effect of usurping the state mandated Georgia
30 Performance Standards.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

32 (1) That the State Board of Education instruct the College Board to withdraw its new
33 APUSH framework before the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year and replace it with
34 the previous APUSH course or with another that respects and incorporates the Georgia
35 Performance Standards for Social Studies, specifically incorporating the Georgia
36 Performance Standards' emphasis on America's founding principles and the uniqueness of
37 America's role in the world;

38 (2) That the State Board of Education instruct the College Board to return to an APUSH
39 examination that aligns with the restored APUSH course and that respects and incorporates
40 the Georgia Performance Standards;

41 (3) That if the College Board does not comply with these requests, the State Board of
42 Education and the Georgia Department of Education cease expending any state funds on
43 professional development activities, textbooks, or other instructional materials aligned to
44 APUSH;

45 (4) That if the College Board does not comply with these requests, the Georgia
46 congressional delegation is urged to push for reduction or elimination of federal funding
47 for the College Board;

48 (5) That if the College Board does not comply with these requests, the Governor is
49 directed to contact other governors of several or all states to join Georgia in its suspension
50 of funds to the College Board; and

51 (6) That if the College Board does not comply with these requests, the State Board of
52 Education and the Georgia Department of Education are directed to explore alternatives to
53 the College Board's Advanced Placement program that would allow Georgia students to

54 obtain college credit by mastering the content dictated by Georgia standards and that the
55 Governor would seek reciprocity among several or all states and urge them to do likewise.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
57 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the College Board,
58 the State Board of Education, the Georgia Department of Education, Governor Nathan Deal,
59 and each member of the Georgia congressional delegation.