

Senate Resolution 447

By: Senators Black of the 8th, Millar of the 40th, Tippins of the 37th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Harper of the 7th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on School Construction; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Georgia to assure that every public school student
3 is housed in a facility which is structurally sound and well maintained and which has
4 adequate space and equipment to meet each student's instructional needs; and
- 5 WHEREAS, with the growth of the student population in Georgia, the need for construction
6 of new buildings, additions or expansion of existing buildings, and renovation or
7 modernization of existing buildings or structures has increased; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the cost of school construction have escalated over the years and varies greatly
9 between local school systems; and
- 10 WHEREAS, although there are several options and sources to fund and finance school
11 construction projects, it is in the best interest of local school systems to maximize the cost
12 savings on school construction projects to the greatest extent possible so as to free up more
13 funds for classroom instruction; and
- 14 WHEREAS, school construction involves developing long-range capital improvement plans,
15 acquiring the funds needed to implement the plans, and reviewing the architect's plans to
16 construct adequate and safe school facilities; and
- 17 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the General Assembly to study the issue of school
18 construction and financing, including historical data on school construction prior to the
19 implementation of the local option sales tax and adjustment of such data for inflation; the
20 various methods of financing school construction; the differential of school construction
21 costs, including both cost per square foot and cost per full-time equivalent student, in various
22 regions, counties, and municipalities of the state; the practice of compensating architects
23 based on a percentage of construction costs; and other pertinent matters.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 GEORGIA:

26 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
27 School Construction.

28 (2) **Members and officers.**

29 (A) The committee shall be composed of eight members.

30 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members
31 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

32 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
33 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
34 members as cochairperson.

35 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
36 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
37 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

38 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The
39 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
40 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform
41 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

42 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
43 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
44 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
45 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
46 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
47 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

48 (6) **Report.**

49 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
50 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
51 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
52 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

53 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
54 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
55 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

56 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
57 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
58 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
59 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

60 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
61 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the
62 minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

63 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.