

## Senate Resolution 564

By: Senators Black of the 8th, Tippins of the 37th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Hufstetler of the 52nd and Millar of the 40th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate 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 Georgia Senate 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 SENATE:

25 (1) **Creation of study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee on  
26 School Construction.

27 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
28 Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate one  
29 of such members as chairperson.

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

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

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

43 (6) **Report.**

44 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
45 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the  
46 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
47 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

48 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
49 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)  
50 of this paragraph.

51 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
52 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
53 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
54 the Secretary of the Senate.

55 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary  
56 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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