

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HR 71:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 Creating the Joint HOPE Scholarship Program Award Amount for Critical Career Fields
2 Study Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the HOPE scholarship program plays a significant role in the postsecondary
4 education landscape of this state; and

5 WHEREAS, the HOPE scholarship program has helped many Georgia students attend
6 colleges and universities in this state; and

7 WHEREAS, several career fields in this state suffer, or are forecasted to suffer, from a
8 shortage of persons who have completed the necessary postsecondary educational
9 requirements for such career fields; and

10 WHEREAS, adjustments in the amount of the HOPE scholarship award made to eligible
11 students who pursue certain fields of study at eligible private postsecondary institutions could
12 help produce a workforce that eliminates the shortfall of workers in critical career fields.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 GEORGIA:

15 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint HOPE Scholarship
16 Program Award Amount for Critical Career Fields Study Committee.

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

18 (A) The committee shall be composed of 13 members.

19 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the
20 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
21 members as cochairperson.

22 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members
23 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

24 (D) The Governor shall appoint seven members of the committee as follows:

25 (i) One member from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia;

26 (ii) One student from an institution of the University System of Georgia;

27 (iii) One member from the Technical College System of Georgia;

28 (iv) One student from an institution of the Technical College System of Georgia;

29 (v) One member from the Georgia Student Finance Commission;

30 (vi) One member from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget; and

31 (vii) One member from the Georgia business community.

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

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

39 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

40 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
41 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

42 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
43 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,
44 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their
45 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for
46 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

47 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
48 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
49 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
50 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
51 employees.

52 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
53 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
54 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
55 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate; except that funds
56 for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members,
57 and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to
58 their respective agencies.

59 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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