

House Resolution 765

By: Representatives Chandler of the 105th, Clark of the 101st, Dickson of the 6th, Coleman of the 97th, Dudgeon of the 25th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on School Counseling and the Role of School
2 Counselors; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, our schools are experiencing an increasing number of students diagnosed and
4 undiagnosed with mental illness, which often results in student suicidal ideations, suicidal
5 completions, dropping out of school, social withdrawal, underachievement, absenteeism, or
6 in some instances, acts of school violence; and

7 WHEREAS, many of our students are experiencing increasing social/emotional issues that
8 manifest in drug use, misuse, and abuse; bullying; and other unhealthy life choices; and

9 WHEREAS, students in elementary and middle schools without a school counselor often
10 lack the foundation in college and career awareness and exploration which may result in the
11 failure to enroll in the necessary high school courses that will prepare them for the future;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, our school leader programs do not include training on the role of the school
14 counselor; and

15 WHEREAS, our state does not have a standard performance evaluation specific to school
16 counseling; and

17 WHEREAS, school counselors lack access to professional learning specific to school
18 counseling; and

19 WHEREAS, school counselor caseloads, based on current funding, often prevent equitable
20 student access to school counseling services; and

21 WHEREAS, school counselor responsibilities are often not aligned with the required school
22 counselor master's level training; and

23 WHEREAS, school counselors can play a critical role in helping to establish and maintain
24 a positive school climate; and

25 WHEREAS, comprehensive school counseling programs can have a positive impact on the
26 academic, career, and social/emotional development of all students; and

27 WHEREAS, efforts need to be undertaken to ensure that all schools implement
28 comprehensive school counseling programs; and

29 WHEREAS, efforts need to be undertaken to ensure that all students have access to a school
30 counselor.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

32 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
33 on School Counseling and the Role of School Counselors.

34 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the
35 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
36 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate one of such members as chairperson.

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

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

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

50 (6) **Report.**

51 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
52 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

53 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
54 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

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

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

62 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
63 House of Representatives copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
64 thereof.

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