

House Resolution 1507

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Williams of the 168th, Dollar of the 45th, Jones of the 167th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Standardizing the Start Date of Georgia Public
2 Schools; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the tourism industry is a critical component of Georgia's economic
4 competitiveness; and

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia travel and hospitality industry is the state's fifth largest employer;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the travel and hospitality industry supports more than 425,000 jobs, or 10.2
8 percent of all payroll employment in Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, the travel industry has a total annual economic impact of \$57.1 billion to the
10 State of Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, travel industry companies directly and indirectly generate over \$3 billion in tax
12 revenue for the State of Georgia and local communities; and

13 WHEREAS, the summer travel season is a prime revenue generator for the industry; and

14 WHEREAS, many travel and hospitality companies hire full-time and part-time summer
15 workers from Georgia high schools and colleges and provide them with valuable
16 employment experience; and

17 WHEREAS, varied school start dates have a negative impact on both employment and
18 visitation; and

19 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to fully review and study the issue of varied school
20 start dates to determine its negative economic impact to the travel and hospitality industry.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 GEORGIA:

23 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
24 Standardizing the Start Date of Georgia Public Schools.

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

26 (A) The committee shall be composed of 16 members as follows:

27 (i) The chairperson of the House Committee on Economic Development and
28 Tourism;

29 (ii) The chairperson of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee;

30 (iii) The chairperson of the House Committee on Education;

31 (iv) The chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee;

32 (v) The chairperson of the House Committee on Appropriations;

33 (vi) The chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee;

34 (vii) One representative and one citizen member appointed by the Speaker of the
35 House of Representatives;

36 (viii) One representative and one citizen member appointed by the President of the
37 Senate;

38 (ix) One member appointed by the Governor;

39 (x) One member of the State Board of Education appointed by the State School
40 Superintendent;

41 (xi) The Deputy Commissioner of the Tourism Division of the Department of
42 Economic Development;

43 (xii) The president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce
44 or his or her designee;

45 (xiii) The director of the Georgia Travel Association; and

46 (xiv) The executive director of the Georgia Association of Convention and Visitors
47 Bureaus.

48 (B) The chairperson of the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
49 and the chairperson of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee shall
50 serve as co-chairpersons of the committee.

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

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

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

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

61 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
62 of the committee for more than eight days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
63 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
64 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

65 (C) Expenses incurred by the committee may be funded by the members serving on the
66 committee who are not public officials, unless otherwise prohibited by law. Such
67 members who are not public officials are authorized to provide the committee with such
68 logistical, professional, and other support as the committee deems necessary to carry
69 out the committee's duties under this resolution.

70 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

85 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2016.