

House Resolution 1654

By: Representative Cheokas of the 138th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Coordinating Federal Funding to Empower the
2 Georgia Workforce; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia spends approximately \$56 million per day on education and workforce
4 between pre-kindergarten, secondary, higher education and workforce programs; and

5 WHEREAS, the HOPE grant program does not cover the full cost of tuition at institutions
6 of the Technical College System of Georgia, making it difficult for low-income students to
7 obtain in-demand skills; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the average rate of labor
9 force participation in 2014 was at its lowest level since the late 1970's; and

10 WHEREAS, the current labor force participation rate in Georgia is 62.6 percent and is
11 projected to drop to 59 percent by 2040, according to the Atlanta Regional Commission; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the Employ Georgia website, there are currently 126,274 open jobs
13 in Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, sixty-nine percent of current job postings in Georgia require some form of
15 postsecondary training or degree, 62 percent requiring a bachelor's degree or higher; and

16 WHEREAS, only 31 percent of Georgians have a bachelor's degree or higher; and

17 WHEREAS, per capita income in Georgia is \$49,342.00, which is 7.74 percent lower than
18 the national average, and the poverty rate for Georgia is 18.3 percent, compared to 14.8
19 percent for the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia's total federal student aid funding per capita has increased 122 percent
21 between 2003 and 2012, with the Pell Grant program making up 96 percent of the federal
22 higher education funds for Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, the goals of the following programs are similar:

24 (1) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP
25 E&T) program promotes long-term self-sufficiency and independence by preparing
26 SNAP recipients for employment through work-related education and training activities;

27 (2) The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed to help
28 needy families achieve self-sufficiency. States receive block grants to design and operate
29 programs that accomplish one of the purposes of the TANF program and include
30 providing assistance to needy families to reduce the dependency of needy parents by
31 promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;

32 (3) The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is designed to help job
33 seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the
34 labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in
35 the global economy;

36 (4) The federal Pell Grant program provides need-based grants to low-income
37 undergraduate and certain post-baccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary
38 education; and

39 (5) The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act aims to increase the
40 quality of technical education within the United States in order to help the economy.

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

42 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
43 on Coordinating Federal Funding to Empower the Georgia Workforce.

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

45 (A) The committee shall be composed of four members of the House of
46 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as
47 follows:

48 (i) A member of the House Committee on Small Business Development;

49 (ii) A member of the House Committee on Education;

50 (iii) A member of the House Committee on Higher Education; and

51 (iv) A member of the House Committee on Health and Human Services.

52 (B) The Speaker shall also appoint an additional nine nonlegislative members of the
53 committee as follows:

- 54 (i) The director of the Workforce Division of the Department of Economic
55 Development or his or her designee;
- 56 (ii) The commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia or his or her
57 designee;
- 58 (iii) The Chancellor of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia or
59 his or her designee;
- 60 (iv) The Labor Commissioner or his or her designee;
- 61 (v) The director of the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department
62 of Human Resources or his or her designee;
- 63 (vi) One representative from two different Georgia community based organizations;
64 and
- 65 (vii) Two representatives from the Georgia business community.
- 66 (C) The Speaker shall designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson
67 of the committee.
- 68 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
69 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
70 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 71 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
72 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
73 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
74 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
- 75 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**
- 76 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
77 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
- 78 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
79 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
80 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
81 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
82 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.
- 83 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
84 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
85 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
86 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
87 employees.
- 88 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
89 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
90 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds

91 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement
92 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the
93 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated
94 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

95 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

107 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
108 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
109 thereof.

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