

House Resolution 608

By: Representatives Stephens of the 164th, Peake of the 141st, and Jones of the 47th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Georgia Public Schools Calendar; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, mid-summer school start dates potentially cause logistical challenges for
4 working families; and

5 WHEREAS, students are bettered by opportunities to travel, by summer camp experiences,
6 and by family time; and

7 WHEREAS, many companies hire full and part-time summer workers from Georgia high
8 schools and colleges; and

9 WHEREAS, students benefit from employment opportunities available to them during the
10 summer months; and

11 WHEREAS, employers benefit from the ability to employ high school and college students
12 during the summer months; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia schools conduct facility improvement projects during summer break
14 period so as to minimize disruption to student learning; and

15 WHEREAS, providing climate controlled environments for students during the summer
16 months potentially costs school systems considerable financial resources; and

17 WHEREAS, varied school start dates affect both employment and visitation opportunities;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate high school and college or university
20 dual-enrollment program entry times to maximize benefits to the students; and

21 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to study the issue of early school start dates to
22 determine its social, growth, and economic impact.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 GEORGIA:

25 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
26 the Georgia Public Schools Calendar.

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

28 (A) The committee shall be composed of 13 members as follows:

29 (i) The chairperson of the House Committee on Economic Development and
30 Tourism;

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

32 (iii) The chairperson of the House Committee on Education, or his or her designee;

33 (iv) The chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, or his or her
34 designee;

35 (v) One member of the House of Representatives and one citizen member appointed
36 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

37 (vi) One member of the Senate and one citizen member appointed by the Lieutenant
38 Governor;

39 (vii) One member appointed by the Governor;

40 (viii) One member of the Georgia Board of Education;

41 (ix) The Deputy Commissioner of Tourism for the Georgia Department of Economic
42 Development;

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

45 (xi) The president of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

77 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

92 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.