

House Resolution 702

By: Representatives Smith of the 41st, Wilkerson of the 38th, Stephens of the 165th, Scott of the 76th, and Boddie of the 62nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Criteria Used to Assess Schools and School
2 Systems; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, recently published information on student outcomes, which is often limited to
4 standardized tests results, reflect factors that are beyond the influence of schools and often
5 fail to capture the full spectrum of student learning objectives; and

6 WHEREAS, such emphasis on standardized tests entails the risk of shifting teaching
7 practices toward an overemphasis on what is assessed and the measures of student
8 performance, with a possible narrowing effect on the curriculum and other factors affecting
9 wider achievement, such as the provision of robust before and after school programs, chess
10 or drama clubs, or participation in academic debates or competition; and

11 WHEREAS, because of this, there is a case to be made to include complementary
12 information in evaluations that broadens the base of evidence and provides further
13 explanation of the factors which have influenced performance; and

14 WHEREAS, the challenge is to address transparency by presenting student standardized test
15 results in a way that is seen as fair and credible by all stakeholders and set in a wider array
16 of evidence that reflects broader student learning objectives; and

17 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the development of a wider strategy to assess the
18 performance of schools and school systems that uses school evaluation evidence in ways that
19 encourage schools to remain aspirational in relation to the wider educational agenda,
20 whatever their test results; to identify best practices in measuring school performance,
21 including whether multiple performance scores should be utilized; and to examine the current
22 criteria used to assess the performance of schools and school systems to determine whether
23 components should be retained or revised.

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

25 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
26 on the Criteria Used to Assess Schools and School Systems.

27 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
28 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
29 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional five nonlegislative
30 members of the committee as follows: one member each representing the Professional
31 Association of Georgia Educators, the Georgia Association of Educators, the American
32 Federation of Teachers, Educators First, and the Georgia Parent Teacher Association.
33 The Speaker shall designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the
34 committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

60 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated
61 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

62 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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