

Senate Resolution 761

By: Senators Millar of the 40th, Cowser of the 46th, Albers of the 56th and Watson of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Dyslexia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin; and
- 3 WHEREAS, dyslexia is the most common learning disability, affecting approximately one
4 in five individuals and approximately 80 percent of all individuals with a learning disability;
5 and
- 6 WHEREAS, the condition is often unexpected because those it affects can have a very high
7 level of intelligence but read at a much lower level; and
- 8 WHEREAS, dyslexia causes difficulty with phoneme segmentation, the ability to break
9 words down into individual sounds; and
- 10 WHEREAS, an individual with dyslexia may have weaknesses in decoding and reading
11 fluency, but they are often surrounded by a sea of strengths in reasoning, problem solving,
12 concept formation, critical thinking, and vocabulary; and
- 13 WHEREAS, early diagnosis is critical to early remediation with evidence based intervention
14 for individuals with dyslexia that leads to self-awareness, self-empowerment, self-esteem,
15 and necessary accommodations to ensure student, school, and life success; and
- 16 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to draw attention to the profound educational
17 impact of dyslexia on the education and lives of countless children, adults, and students in
18 the State of Georgia.
- 19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:
- 20 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
21 on Dyslexia.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of three members of the
23 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate and two members appointed by the
24 Governor, one of whom shall be an employee of the Department of Education and one
25 of whom shall be a medical doctor with a specialty in dyslexia. The President shall
26 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

34 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
35 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
36 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
37 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
38 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
39 appropriated to the Senate.

40 (6) **Report.**

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

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

48 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
49 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
50 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
51 the Secretary of the Senate.

52 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
53 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

54 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.