

House Resolution 1343

By: Representative Ehrhart of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on State Tuition Assistance for Independent College
2 Students; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Code Section 20-3-412 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated provides for
4 tuition equalization grants for Georgia residents attending independent colleges and
5 universities; and

6 WHEREAS, more than 28,569 Georgia residents currently utilize tuition equalization grants
7 to help pay for courses in qualified independent colleges; and

8 WHEREAS, the current semester award per Georgia resident student is \$475.00, while
9 Georgia residents attending institutions of the University System of Georgia receive
10 taxpayer-supported tuition funding of more than \$3,000.00 per semester; and

11 WHEREAS, the current tuition equalization grant per semester award of \$475.00 is only
12 \$13.00 more than the per semester award in 1990; and

13 WHEREAS, HOPE scholarship award amounts for qualified Georgia residents attending
14 independent colleges and universities is less than the amounts awarded to Georgia residents
15 attending public colleges; and

16 WHEREAS, Zell scholarship awards for residents attending independent colleges and
17 universities are significantly lower than awards to Zell scholars in public colleges; and

18 WHEREAS, independent colleges which are members of the Georgia Independent College
19 Association award more than \$17,133.00 in institutional grant aid for entering freshmen
20 students who demonstrate need; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia's independent colleges are partners with the University System of
22 Georgia and the Technical Colleges System of Georgia in educating Georgia residents and
23 preparing students to fill critical jobs.

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

26 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
27 State Tuition Assistance for Independent College Students.

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

29 (A) The committee shall be composed of eight members.

30 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
31 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
32 members as cochairperson.

33 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members
34 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

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

42 (5) **Allowances 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) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
46 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
47 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
48 appropriated to the House of Representatives and Senate.

49 (6) **Report.**

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

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

- 57 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
58 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
59 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
60 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.
- 61 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk
62 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes
63 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 64 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.