

Senate Resolution 1064

By: Senators Sims of the 12th, Burke of the 11th, Dugan of the 30th, Brass of the 28th, Seay of the 34th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Continual Audit Exceptions on Local School
2 Systems; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, under state law, the Department of Audits and Accounts conducts annual audits
4 on local school systems; and

5 WHEREAS, as part of such audits, the Department of Audits and Accounts reports
6 irregularities or budget deficits in the fund accounting information of the local school system;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the local school superintendent of any local school system that is cited by the
9 Department of Audits and Accounts for having irregularities or budget deficits is required
10 to report to the Department of Education with a response to the findings and a corrective
11 action plan and present a monthly report to the local board of education members; and

12 WHEREAS, the local board of education is also required to publish notice of such
13 irregularities or budget deficits once a week for two weeks in the legal organ of the county;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in spite of these notice provisions and safeguards, there are local school systems
16 that continually receive findings of irregularities or budget deficits each year; and

17 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the issue and determine if other punitive or
18 corrective measures are necessary to obtain compliance by local school systems with
19 continual citations, including, considering the withholding of state funds from the local
20 school system and the removal of the local board of education members.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

22 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
23 on Continual Audit Exceptions on Local School Systems.

24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
25 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
26 legislative 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 a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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