

## House Resolution 137

By: Representatives Metze of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Howard of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the History of Historically Black Colleges and  
2 Universities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to ten Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Albany  
4 State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort Valley State University, Interdenominational  
5 Theological Center, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Morris Brown  
6 College, Paine College, Savannah State University, and Spelman College; and

7 WHEREAS, Historically Black Colleges and Universities located in the State of Georgia are  
8 significant economic engines in metro Atlanta and East, Middle, and South Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have made many significant  
10 contributions to the State of Georgia, including having historically served as the only option  
11 for African Americans interested in pursuing higher education, and will continue to play  
12 important roles with regard to access, education, research, and service; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia accounts for roughly 10 percent of more than 100 Historically Black  
14 Colleges and Universities across our nation, and while these schools represent just 3 percent  
15 of our country's institutions of higher learning, they graduate nearly 20 percent of African  
16 Americans who earn undergraduate degrees; and

17 WHEREAS, according to the United Negro College Fund, Historically Black Colleges and  
18 Universities generate 25 percent of all bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering,  
19 and mathematics (STEM) fields earned by African Americans. Additionally, Historically  
20 Black Colleges and Universities award 14 percent of all African American engineering  
21 degrees at less than half the cost of other four-year colleges and universities; and

22 WHEREAS, while Historically Black Colleges and Universities also serve as culture hubs  
23 for students from all across the State of Georgia and the United States, many Historically

24 Black Colleges and Universities in Georgia have come under increased scrutiny due to a lack  
25 of knowledge surrounding the significant impact they have on their students, employees,  
26 local communities, and the entire state; and

27 WHEREAS, further study is needed on the historical backdrop of Georgia's Historically  
28 Black Colleges and Universities.

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

30 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
31 on the History of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

32 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the  
33 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
34 Representatives, at least three of whom shall be members of the minority caucus. The  
35 Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

43 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

44 (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall  
45 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of  
46 Georgia Annotated.

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

51 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

66 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.