

## Senate Resolution 154

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Mullis of the 53rd, Butler of the 55th, Strickland of the 17th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee for Strengthening Georgia's Future Workforce; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in order to maintain Georgia's hard-earned position as the "Top State for Doing  
4 Business" in the United States, continued investment and innovation in educating and  
5 developing a high quality workforce is required; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's economy continues to experience historic growth in fields such as  
7 technology, healthcare, and manufacturing; and

8 WHEREAS, 70 percent of all global FinTech transactions currently pass through Georgia,  
9 generating more than 30,000 professional jobs and fueling continued economic growth in  
10 technology related fields; and

11 WHEREAS, many of these fields are increasingly dependent on workers with some level of  
12 postsecondary education and, in fact, more than 60 percent of Georgia jobs will require some  
13 level of postsecondary education by 2025, while only half the number of Georgians over 25  
14 have bachelor degrees; and

15 WHEREAS, financial challenges create roadblocks for many students working toward a  
16 postsecondary credential or degree, placing Georgia near the bottom in college graduation  
17 rates according to a 2018 report, with only 31 percent of Georgians between the ages of 18  
18 and 24 enrolled in college; and

19 WHEREAS, tuition and fees associated with postsecondary education have increased  
20 dramatically over the last 30 years while federal student aid for higher education has  
21 decreased over the same period; and

22 WHEREAS, the average cost of college attendance through the University System of  
23 Georgia increased 77 percent between 2006 and 2015; and

24 WHEREAS, HOPE is the most generous state financial aid program in the country, but  
25 Georgia is one of only two states that does not offer broad need-based scholarships to  
26 students; and

27 WHEREAS, many hardworking Georgians lack the financial means to successfully pursue  
28 postsecondary education in preparation for entering the workforce without incurring  
29 substantial student loan debt; and

30 WHEREAS, former Governor Nathan Deal led efforts to improve access to postsecondary  
31 education for high-performing and financially-disadvantaged middle school students through  
32 his innovative REACH Scholarship program; and

33 WHEREAS, the lifetime earnings of each new four-year college graduate will increase  
34 Georgia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by almost \$2 million, providing a significant boost  
35 to the state's economy; and

36 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly passed HB 787 in 2018 which included a  
37 provision authorizing the Georgia Student Finance Commission to create Georgia's first  
38 broad need-based aid program for university system students; and

39 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the optimal structure and funding of any  
40 need-based aid program; and

41 WHEREAS, further study is needed to gather information and identify areas where a  
42 need-based scholarship program could aid in improving workforce development; and

43 WHEREAS, the study of existing data and available information related to improving the  
44 workforce available to Georgia's growing economy can be instructive for any needed  
45 revisions to laws in this state.

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
47 GEORGIA:

48 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee for  
49 Strengthening Georgia's Future Workforce.

50 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 13 members as  
51 follows:

52 (A) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members of the  
53 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
54 members as cochairperson;

55 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate as members  
56 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson;

57 (C) The chancellor of the University System of Georgia, or the chancellor's  
58 representative;

59 (D) The commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia, or the  
60 commissioner's representative; and

61 (E) The president of the Georgia Student Finance Commission, or the president's  
62 representative.

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

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

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

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

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

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

83 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received  
84 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are  
85 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come

86 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives; except that  
87 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative  
88 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise  
89 available to their respective agencies.

90 **(6) Report.**

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

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

98 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
99 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
100 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed  
101 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

102 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the  
103 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the  
104 minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

105 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.