

## House Resolution 1656

By: Representatives Barnes of the 86<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Ballard of the 147<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Park of the 107<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on School Nutrition, Student Food Security, Georgia  
2 Agriculture, and Student Success; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, food insecurity among children remains a significant challenge in Georgia,  
4 affecting students' ability to learn, concentrate, and succeed academically; and

5 WHEREAS, research consistently shows that access to nutritious meals improves student  
6 literacy, attendance, cognitive development, and long-term educational outcomes; and

7 WHEREAS, many families in Georgia fall into a gap where they earn too much to qualify  
8 for free or reduced price meals but still struggle to afford school meals for their children; and

9 WHEREAS, eliminating barriers to school meals may help reduce stigma, increase  
10 participation, and ensure that every child begins the school day ready to learn; and

11 WHEREAS, several states have implemented universal school meal programs and have  
12 reported positive outcomes related to student health, academic performance, and school  
13 climate; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia farmers and agricultural producers could benefit from stronger  
15 procurement partnerships with schools, strengthening the farm-to-school pipeline and  
16 supporting the state's agricultural economy; and

17 WHEREAS, expanding access to school meals may produce broader economic benefits by  
18 supporting Georgia agriculture, reducing administrative costs for school districts, and  
19 strengthening the long-term workforce pipeline by improving child health and education  
20 outcomes; and

21 WHEREAS, additional study is necessary to fully understand the extent of student food  
22 insecurity in Georgia and the fiscal implications of providing universal access to school  
23 meals.

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

25 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
26 on School Nutrition, Student Food Security, Georgia Agriculture, and Student Success.

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

28 (A) The committee shall be composed of seven members of the House of  
29 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

30 (B) The Speaker shall also appoint seven additional nonlegislative members of the  
31 committee as follows:

32 (i) A representative from the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition  
33 Division;

34 (ii) A member with expertise in public health;

35 (iii) A representative of Georgia's agriculture industry or a farm-to-school  
36 organization in Georgia;

37 (iv) A school nutrition director;

38 (v) A representative of a nonprofit organization that does work or research relevant  
39 to the work of the committee;

40 (vi) A member with expertise in education or literacy; and

41 (vii) A member with expertise in economics or fiscal policy.

42 (C) The Speaker shall also designate a legislative member of the committee as  
43 chairperson of the committee.

44 **(3) Powers and duties.**

45 (A) The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and  
46 problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or legislation  
47 which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

48 (B) The duties of the committee shall also include, but not be limited to:

49 (i) Examining the state's current postsecondary and transition offerings; and

50 (ii) Studying the most recent data on postsecondary offerings in prisons and  
51 successful models around the country.

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

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

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

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

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

69 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
70 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
71 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
72 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement  
73 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the  
74 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated  
75 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

76 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

91 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2026.