

Senate Resolution 978

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Hickman of the 4th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Orrock of the 36th, Howard of the 35th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Higher Education Funding; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, state funding for the University System of Georgia and the Technical College
3 System of Georgia is appropriated in lump sums to be allocated among institutions of the
4 university system and units of the technical college system by the Board of Regents of the
5 University System of Georgia and the State Board of the Technical College System of
6 Georgia, respectively; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the amount of such funding is determined based on funding formulas that are
8 decades old and rely heavily on student enrollment; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the funding formulas' reliance on student enrollment rather than student
10 outcomes, such as graduation, could incentivize practices that are not in the best interests of
11 students; and
- 12 WHEREAS, since the implementation of the funding formulas for the University System of
13 Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia, higher education has changed in
14 significant ways, in particular with the advent and proliferation of education technology and

15 virtual instruction, and more changes in higher education are expected in the coming years;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, such changes may not be adequately accounted for in the current funding
18 formulas and projected declining enrollment could result in insufficient funding in the future;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, for the reasons mentioned above, it is in the best interests of the citizens of this
21 state for the General Assembly to review and evaluate the efficacy and sufficiency of these
22 funding formulas and to explore alternative funding formulas and how to best transition to
23 a new funding formula.

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

25 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
26 on Higher Education Funding.

27 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall comprise six members of the Senate
28 to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall
29 designate one of such members as chairperson of the committee.

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

33 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
34 may conduct meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
35 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
36 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The committee may call upon
37 persons with expertise in education funding as deemed necessary by the committee to
38 fully explore the purposes of this resolution.

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

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

42 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
43 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
44 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
45 appropriated to the Senate.

46 **(6) Report.**

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

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

54 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
55 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
56 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
57 the Secretary of the Senate. Any member of the committee may file a minority report
58 that shall accompany the majority report.

59 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
60 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

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