

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to HR 630:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee for Consolidation of County Governments and School
2 Systems; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, counties are mandated by law to provide several services for the benefit and
4 protection of the public; and

5 WHEREAS, nevertheless, as county populations continue to decrease in rural areas, higher
6 tax burdens are placed on those who remain in such communities; and

7 WHEREAS, state legislators and local populations should review consolidation, including
8 possible incentives and economies of scale that may come with consolidation.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 GEORGIA:

11 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee for
12 Consolidation of County Governments and School Systems.

13 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 12 members as
14 follows:

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

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

(C) The executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association, his or her designee, or his or her appointee;

(D) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, his or her designee, or his or her appointee;

(E) The executive director of the Georgia School Superintendents Association, his or her designee, or his or her appointee;

(F) The executive director of the Georgia School Boards Association, his or her designee, or his or her appointee; and

(G) Two members appointed by the president of the Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia.

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

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

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

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

(B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members, or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,

but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

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

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

(6) Report.

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

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

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

- 69 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the Clerk
70 of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate copies of the minutes
71 of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 72 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.