

## Senate Resolution 787

By: Senators Dixon of the 45th, Burns of the 23rd, Anavitarte of the 31st, Payne of the 54th, Hickman of the 4th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate University Admissions Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, postsecondary education is a critical investment by Georgians in Georgia's  
3 future workforce and the health and vitality of Georgia's economy and communities; and
- 4 WHEREAS, certain admissions requirements can inhibit economic mobility, limit job  
5 prospects, and hinder gainful employment; and
- 6 WHEREAS, 40 percent of Georgians have criminal histories, which limit the opportunities  
7 available to them; and
- 8 WHEREAS, every member institution of the University System of Georgia inquires about  
9 criminal history, but research shows such inquiries can be a major deterrent to applications  
10 and admissions; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the university system's member institutions lack a unified approach in  
12 admissions; and
- 13 WHEREAS, it is important to review how other states have reformed university admissions  
14 to streamline the process, reduce the burden on applicants and admissions offices, and  
15 increase enrollment rates across the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, it is in the state's best interest to reduce barriers for those seeking postsecondary educational opportunities, as it benefits the economy, workforce, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to review the admissions processes of the institutions of the University System of Georgia, how such admissions processes impact applicants and potential applicants, and make recommendations regarding potential changes to the admissions processes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

(1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate University Admissions Study Committee.

(2) **Members and officers.**

(A) The committee shall be composed of five members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, which shall include three members from the majority caucus and two members from the minority caucus.

(B) The President shall also appoint an additional four nonlegislative members of the committee as follows:

(i) The chancellor of the University System of Georgia, or the chancellor's designee;

(ii) One member of the general public with expertise in university admissions;

(iii) One member of the general public with expertise in reentry relating to those impacted by the criminal legal system; and

(iv) One member of the general public who has experienced the issues mentioned above.

(C) The President shall designate a legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

(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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

66 (6) **Report.**

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

(B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson 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 chairperson of the committee and filed with the Secretary of the Senate.

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

(7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.