

Senate Resolution 474

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Dixon of the 45th, Harbison of the 15th, Burns of the 23rd and Harrell of the 40th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Higher Education Affordability; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has the third highest graduate and undergraduate student loan debt per
4 borrower in the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, by 2031, 72 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary credentials and
6 currently Georgia has a postsecondary completion rate of 50.8 percent among young adults;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, unlike many other states, Georgia does not have a means tested scholarship
9 program; and

10 WHEREAS, the amount of unrestricted education lottery reserves currently totals \$1.6
11 billion; and

12 WHEREAS, this body should explore options for making higher education more affordable
13 for Georgians, including the creation of a means tested scholarship program.

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

15 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
16 on Higher Education Affordability.

17 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
18 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate one
19 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

27 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
28 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
29 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
30 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
31 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
32 appropriated to the Senate.

33 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

47 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.