

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

**ADOPTED SENATE**

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.