

## Senate Resolution 545

By: Senators Kemp of the 38th, Esteves of the 35th, Sims of the 12th, Jones II of the 22nd, Jackson of the 41st and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Paid Student Teaching Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, student teaching in Georgia currently requires aspiring educators to work more  
3 than 40 hours per week in public school classrooms without pay, while simultaneously  
4 paying tuition and covering living expenses, creating significant financial hardship and  
5 feelings of burnout; and
- 6 WHEREAS, this uncompensated labor creates a barrier for students from low and middle  
7 income backgrounds, limiting access to the teaching profession and exacerbating the shortage  
8 of new educators in Georgia's education workforce; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the growing teacher shortage in Georgia, compounded by high attrition rates  
10 and decreased enrollment in traditional educator preparation programs, requires urgent and  
11 sustainable policy solutions, including compensation during student teaching to support  
12 recruitment and retention; and
- 13 WHEREAS, other states have launched successful paid student teaching initiatives, and  
14 Georgia currently has the fiscal capacity to explore this investment with unallocated surplus  
15 funds available in the state budget; and

16 WHEREAS, study is needed to examine the feasibility, benefits, and fiscal implications of  
17 providing compensation to student teachers in Georgia, including, but not limited to, the  
18 study of:

- 19 (1) The financial and logistical challenges faced by student teachers;
- 20 (2) The impact of unpaid student teaching on the recruitment and retention of educators,  
21 particularly in high-need and rural schools and school systems;
- 22 (3) The relationship between paid internships and teacher preparedness, diversity, and  
23 performance;
- 24 (4) Cost estimates and funding mechanisms for implementing a state-wide paid student  
25 teaching program; and
- 26 (5) Best practices from other states and pilot programs.

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

- 28 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Paid Student  
29 Teaching Study Committee.
- 30 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members. Four  
31 members shall be members of the Senate appointed by the Senate majority caucus leader  
32 and two members shall be members of the Senate appointed by Senate minority caucus  
33 leader. The President of the Senate shall designate a legislative member of the committee  
34 as chairperson of the committee.
- 35 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
36 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
37 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 38 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee  
39 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
40 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
41 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

48 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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