

House Resolution 1829

By: Representative Au of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Georgia schools and boards of education to adopt evidence-based discipline policies
2 and procedures to address the public health crisis of student vape and e-cigarette use; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the adolescent use of e-cigarettes and vapes has become a national public health
5 crisis, with the American Lung Association reporting that more than 2.1 million middle and
6 high school students are currently using e-cigarettes, with a staggering 18.2 percent of high
7 school students across the State of Georgia currently using e-cigarettes, more than double the
8 nation's average; and

9 WHEREAS, vaping exposes young people to nicotine and other harmful substances at a time
10 when the brain is most at risk for addiction, and because the brain continues to develop until
11 early adulthood, the use of any addictive substance prior to these years is especially risky;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the House Study Committee on the Costs and Effects of Smoking found that
14 e-cigarettes contribute to serious and negative health effects, and the Centers for Disease
15 Control and Prevention confirms these include respiratory illnesses, asthma, ADHD, and

16 other behavioral problems in youth, as well as withdrawal symptoms when youth seek to
17 quit; and

18 WHEREAS, e-cigarette device use is the second leading disciplinary incident in Georgia
19 public schools according to the Georgia Office of Student Achievement, and in more than
20 50 percent of school vaping cases, children are suspended or expelled from school for long
21 periods of time; and

22 WHEREAS, research shows that suspensions of 10 days or more can cut students' likelihood
23 of graduating in half and that children who do not graduate experience higher rates of chronic
24 illness, homelessness, joblessness, and justice involvement, costing the state millions of
25 dollars in lost revenue and increased social services; and

26 WHEREAS, the 2025 House Study Committee on Student Attendance recognized that
27 chronic absenteeism is a "critical barrier to student achievement, literacy, and long-term
28 workforce readiness" and must be reduced; and

29 WHEREAS, rather than zero tolerance approaches to student vaping that have proven
30 ineffective at stopping students from vaping or helping them recover from addiction, schools
31 require evidence-based, health-focused alternatives to school suspensions and expulsions to
32 combat the vaping crisis and protect student education, health, and wellbeing; and

33 WHEREAS, schools may participate in the Georgia Department of Public Health's "Opt-Out
34 Live Vape Free Program," in which a child caught vaping in school is given the opportunity
35 to participate in a multipart education and cessation program as an alternative to suspension;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, schools may also take advantage of other free, effective vaping education,
38 cessation, and alternative-to-suspension programs, including the Department of Public
39 Health's Tobacco-Free Schools Toolkit, the American Lung Association's INDEPTH and
40 N-O-T for schools and students, and school-based behavioral health services offered by
41 Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities' Apex and other
42 programs.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body urge Georgia schools and boards of education to reject ineffective
45 zero tolerance discipline approaches to student vaping in favor of alternative-to-suspension
46 programs proven to help students stop vaping while remaining in school in safe and
47 supportive learning environments.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
50 public and the press.