

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth offered the following substitute to SR 553:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Funding for Charter School Capital Improvements;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, locally approved charter schools are an integral part of Georgia's public
4 education system, providing diverse educational opportunities to students across this state;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, access to adequate facilities and capital improvements is essential to ensuring
7 that locally approved charter schools can provide high-quality learning environments; and

8 WHEREAS, traditional public schools have access to various funding sources, including
9 state and local capital outlay funds, bond financing, and the Educational Special Purpose
10 Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST), while locally approved charter schools face challenges
11 in securing comparable funding for capital improvements; and

12 WHEREAS, disparities in capital funding place undue financial burdens on locally approved
13 charter schools, which often must rely on operating budgets, philanthropic contributions, or
14 private financing to secure and maintain appropriate school facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, the lack of dedicated capital funding for locally approved charter schools
16 hinders their ability to make long-term investments in infrastructure, address facility needs,
17 and ensure equity in educational environments; and

18 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Georgia to evaluate the current funding
19 mechanisms for locally approved charter school capital improvements and explore policy
20 solutions to address current disparities.

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

22 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
23 on Funding for Charter School Capital Improvements.

24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
25 Senate. Three members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and two
26 members shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The President of the
27 Senate shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

28 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
29 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
30 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate, including but not limited
31 to the following:

32 (A) Reviewing current funding mechanisms for capital improvements in Georgia's
33 public schools and assessing their impact on charter schools;

34 (B) Examining disparities in capital funding between charter schools and traditional
35 public schools;

36 (C) Analyzing the challenges charter schools face in accessing state and local capital
37 funding, including E-SPLOST, bond financing, and capital outlay grants;

38 (D) Gathering testimony from charter school leaders, education stakeholders, and
39 financial experts to assess the impact of funding limitations; and

40 (E) Exploring potential policy solutions, including legislative and regulatory actions,
41 to ensure equitable access to capital improvement funding for charter schools.

42 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee; provided,
43 however, that the chairperson shall call no more than four meetings of the committee.
44 The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may
45 deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,
46 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

53 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

67 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2026.