

## House Resolution 1048

By: Representatives Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Knight of the 130<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 28<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Education Accreditation; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, providing for public education is a primary obligation of the State of Georgia;  
3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, pre-K, elementary, and secondary education has a unique impact on the future  
5 of the State of Georgia, enrolling more than 1.7 million Georgia students annually in  
6 fulfillment of Georgia's constitutional guarantee of a public education; and
- 7 WHEREAS, pre-K, elementary, and secondary education has a unique impact on the State  
8 of Georgia currently, employing more than 270,000 Georgians and constituting, by far, the  
9 State's greatest public expenditure of resources; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the Georgia Supreme Court has recognized that the General Assembly is  
11 ultimately responsible, not only for providing a public education, but also for ensuring the  
12 quality of that education and the careful oversight of expenditures of public funds dedicated  
13 to it; and

14 WHEREAS, in fulfillment of those duties, the General Assembly has invested by law  
15 significant authority in accreditation agencies, allowing their determinations to serve as the  
16 basis for removing elected school board members and for determining whether schools are  
17 of sufficient quality that their graduates are eligible for HOPE scholarships and grants; and

18 WHEREAS, the historic nature of school accreditation was to provide expert external  
19 evaluation and validation of the quality of teaching, learning, and operations in a school; and

20 WHEREAS, the nature of education accreditation has significantly changed since 2010; and

21 WHEREAS, multiple bills have been introduced in the General Assembly relating to  
22 educational accreditation; yet, as a result of the limited term of the legislative season, there  
23 is not likely to be a complete and consistent understanding of the full impact of these bills,  
24 including possible unintended, but adverse, effects; and

25 WHEREAS, the General Assembly acknowledges the need to reform Georgia's education  
26 accreditation process, but to do so in a manner that will prevent unintended consequences  
27 impacting Georgia's students and families.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

29 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
30 on Study Committee on Education Accreditation.

31 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the  
32 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
33 Representatives, with at least two such members representing the minority caucus. The  
34 Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

35 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of educational  
36 accreditation and its relation to pre-K, elementary, and secondary education in this state,  
37 including conditions, needs, issues, opportunities, and challenges. The committee shall  
38 particularly focus on opportunities to reduce costs; improve education and opportunity;  
39 ensure alignment with Georgia law and education policy; ensure effective and competent  
40 governance; protect the rights of students, families, educators, and elected members of  
41 boards of education; enhance the public's trust and confidence in the educational system;  
42 and any matters related thereto. The committee shall recommend any action or  
43 legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall be  
44 authorized to request the assistance of state employees in this endeavor, such as  
45 professional educators, policy and research analysts employed by state agencies related  
46 to education, assistant attorneys general, and faculty members in the University System  
47 of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia.

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

52 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive  
53 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia  
54 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any  
55 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.  
56 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
57 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

58 (6) **Report.**

59 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
60 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

61 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
62 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

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

66 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
67 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
68 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
69 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

70 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the  
71 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu  
72 thereof.

73 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.