

House Resolution 490

By: Representatives Olaleye of the 59th, Townsend of the 179th, Glaize of the 67th, Greene of the 154th, Hagan of the 156th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Education Funding Mechanisms; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing increasing income inequality, and the
4 consequences of this inequality are evident when examining student performance across
5 school districts in this state; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has one of the highest overall rates of child poverty in the nation but
7 is one of only six states that provides schools with no specific funding to support
8 economically disadvantaged children who are experiencing poverty; and

9 WHEREAS, state funding for the operation of Georgia's public schools is based on the
10 Quality Basic Education Formula, which was established in 1985 and calculates funding to
11 local school systems based generally on student counts and types of programs; and

12 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Georgia join the rest of the nation and create an opportunity
13 weight in the school funding formula to specifically address the needs of students living in
14 poverty to ensure that economically disadvantaged students are given comparable
15 opportunities to learn as are their wealthier peers; and

16 WHEREAS, due to the complexity of the Quality Basic Education Formula, it is in the best
17 interests of the citizens of this state to review and evaluate the efficacy and sufficiency of this
18 funding mechanism and the possibility of implementing an opportunity weight in such
19 formula to meet the needs of all students in this state.

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

21 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
22 on Education Funding Mechanisms.

23 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of eight members of the
24 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
26 of the committee.

27 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
28 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
29 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

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

40 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

55 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.