

House Resolution 650 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15th, Evans of the 83rd, Greene of the 151st, Mathiak of the 73rd, and Paris of the 142nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in 2019, only one-third of Georgia fourth graders could read at or above
3 proficient levels in the National Assessment of Educational Progress; and
- 4 WHEREAS, third grade children shift from learning to read to reading to learn for
5 comprehension which is an indicator of academic success; and
- 6 WHEREAS, students who cannot read proficiently at their grade level by the end of third
7 grade are four times more likely than their proficient counterparts to drop out of high school,
8 regardless of poverty or parent or caregiver education status, and are more likely to
9 experience long-term behavioral and mental health issues; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Georgia's economic well-being depends on a skilled workforce, who must be
11 able to read proficiently to perform current jobs and to upgrade skills for new jobs as the
12 labor market changes; and
- 13 WHEREAS, COVID-19 accelerated automation by five years, two-thirds of Georgia's
14 workers have a high school diploma or less, and 45 percent of the workforce are at risk for

15 unemployment, highlighting the need for workers to be able to upgrade skills to meet
16 changing demands; and

17 WHEREAS, six out of ten STEM professionals do not need a bachelor's degree, but do need
18 to be able to read to learn; and

19 WHEREAS, literacy does not exist in a vacuum, but can be improved through a
20 birth-to-retirement coordinated community effort; and

21 WHEREAS, more than 50 years of robust science support evidence-based practices that can
22 teach more children to read, the first time, without outside interventions; and

23 WHEREAS, there are many governmental, public, and private departments and organizations
24 working tirelessly to improve literacy from birth through retirement; and

25 WHEREAS, study is needed to understand the lessons learned from these many programs
26 around the state and to determine policy and legislative prescriptions for improving
27 coordination and emphasizing and expanding effective programs and practices around the
28 state; and

29 WHEREAS, highlighting and supporting best practices in the literacy education
30 birth-to-retirement system will enable a large majority of Georgia's children to read at or
31 above proficient levels by the end of third grade.

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

33 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
34 on Literacy Instruction.

35 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
36 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
37 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional nine nonlegislative
38 members of the committee as follows: one representative each from the Department of
39 Early Care and Learning, the Department of Education, the Technical College System of
40 Georgia, the University System of Georgia, the Office of Student Achievement, and the
41 Deal Center; one member of the academic or business community who specializes in
42 study of complex systems; one individual who represents a not-for-profit entity involved
43 in Georgia and national literacy efforts; and a classroom teacher who specializes in
44 literacy. The Speaker shall designate a legislative member of the committee as
45 chairperson of the committee.

46 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake to:

47 (A) Determine the definition of evidence-based literacy instruction;

48 (B) Determine the impact of low literacy on Georgia's economic and workforce
49 competitiveness;

50 (C) Determine the extent of different programs in Georgia that work in birth through
51 retirement literacy instruction;

52 (D) Examine how the aforementioned programs work together;

53 (E) Examine how programs that utilize evidence-based literacy instruction can adapt
54 as new evidence emerges;

55 (F) Examine any changes that should be made to educational standards to support
56 evidence-based instruction;

57 (G) Determine how the state can best support local educational ecosystems; and

58 (H) Study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related
59 thereto and recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary
60 or appropriate.

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

65 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

66 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
67 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

68 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
69 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,
70 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their
71 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for
72 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

73 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
74 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
75 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
76 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
77 employees.

78 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
79 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
80 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
81 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the
82 reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and
83 state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their
84 respective agencies.

85 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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