

## House Resolution 827

By: Representatives Ramsey of the 72<sup>nd</sup>, Meadows of the 5<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Maxwell of the 17<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on the Preservation of the HOPE Scholarship Program;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Lottery funds the HOPE scholarship program and Georgia's Pre-K  
4 Program, which are critical state programs that have enhanced the education of thousands  
5 upon thousands of Georgians; and

6 WHEREAS, the HOPE scholarship program has been essential over the past two decades in  
7 helping to make Georgia's higher education system one of the finest in the world; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Lottery has made Georgia's Pre-K Program and higher education  
9 accessible to hundreds of thousands of Georgians since its inception; and

10 WHEREAS, lottery revenues have been strained in recent years to maintain program funding  
11 levels; and

12 WHEREAS, maintaining and growing lottery funded initiatives such as the HOPE  
13 scholarship program and Georgia's Pre-K Program for future generations of Georgians is  
14 essential to future economic growth and the continued development of a well-educated state  
15 work force; and

16 WHEREAS, the recognized success and steady expansion of the HOPE scholarship program  
17 is placing significant pressures on the program's current funding framework; and

18 WHEREAS, it is widely understood that the State of Georgia will have to explore  
19 supplemental sources of revenue in order to preserve and expand the HOPE scholarship  
20 program for future generations of Georgians; and

21 WHEREAS, legislation proposing the state taxation of casino gaming and pari-mutuel  
 22 wagering on horse racing has been introduced in recent years as a source of supplemental  
 23 funding for the HOPE scholarship program and Georgia's Pre-K Program; and

24 WHEREAS, for the purposes of assessing the viability of these legislative proposals as a  
 25 means to preserve and enhance lottery funded education programs, it would be appropriate  
 26 and responsible to study the social and economic issues pertaining to the legalization and  
 27 taxation of limited casino gaming and pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing and whether  
 28 such proposals should be considered as a means to stabilize the HOPE scholarship program's  
 29 overarching fiscal framework for the benefit of current and future Georgians.

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

31 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
 32 on the Preservation of the HOPE Scholarship Program.

33 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members of the  
 34 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
 35 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson  
 36 of the committee.

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

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

44 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

47 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
 48 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
 49 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
 50 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

51 (6) **Report.**

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

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

59 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
60 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

61 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with  
62 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

66 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.